

INSIDE: EPA ANNOUNCES PERMIT REQUEST BY WESTATES CARBON

EPA has prepared this fact sheet in English only, because we do not yet know whether residents near Westates will need materials in Spanish. If you would like to receive materials in Spanish in the future, please contact Vicky Semones at the toll free phone number and address at the right.

La EPA ha preparado esta hoja de datos solamente en Ingles porque no sabemos si los residentes que viven cerca de Westates necesitan informacion en Español. Si usted desea recibir informacion en Español en el futuro, por favor comuniquese con Vicky Semones al numero de telefono (800) y a la dirección a la derecha.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the facility or the EPA permit process, we would like you to contact:

Karen Scheuermann
Project Manager [WST-4]
Phone: 415-744-2068
or
Vicky Semones
Community Involvement Coordinator
[SFD-3]
Phone: 415-744-2184

U.S.EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

or call toll free at 800-231-3075
and your call will be returned.

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United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Attn: Vicky Semones

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EPA

Westates Carbon- Arizona Inc.

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • SEPTEMBER 2000

WESTATES CARBON HAS REQUESTED A HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AND TREATMENT PERMIT

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is sending this notice to let you know that Westates Carbon - Arizona, Inc. [Westates] has requested a hazardous waste storage and treatment permit. The facility is located at 2523 Mutahar Street on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. This is about one mile southeast of Parker, Arizona. EPA is reviewing Westates' application but will not propose a decision on whether to approve or deny it until next year. At that time, you will be invited to attend a special meeting during a public comment period. EPA will send more information to the community about those activities.

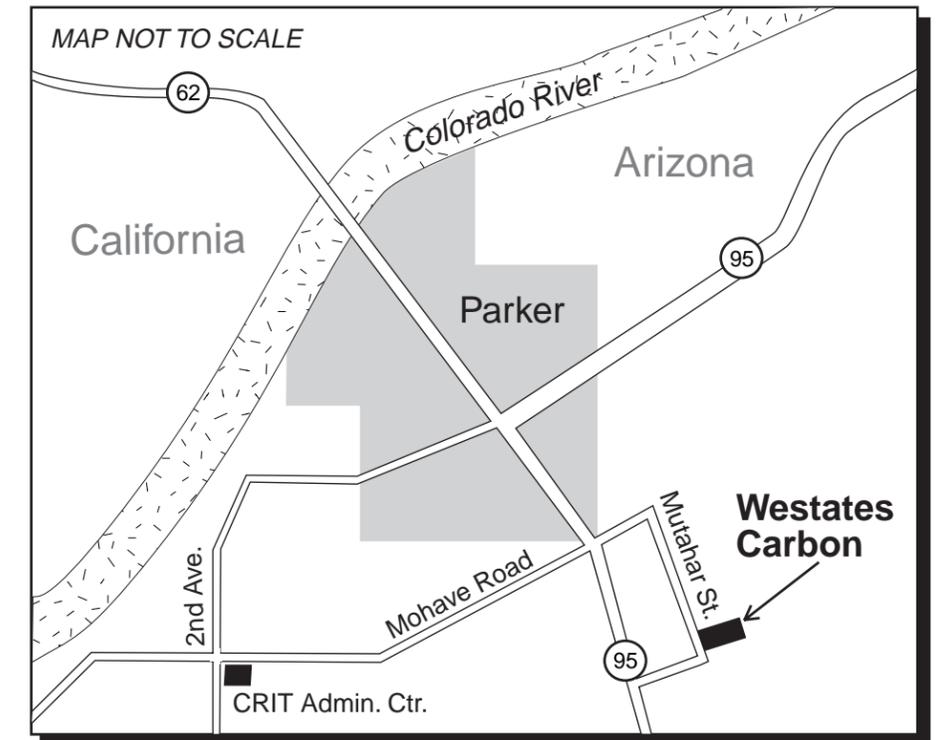


Figure 1: Site Location Map

WHAT IS A RCRA PERMIT?

Proper management of hazardous waste is important to ensure that air, land and water resources, as well as human health, are fully protected. To protect these important resources, Congress passed The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, as well as the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984.

These laws require that all owners and operators of existing and new hazardous waste facilities obtain a permit from EPA or the state that is authorized to oversee the Federal program.

A permit establishes the conditions under which a facility can operate. It contains several safety features, such as how the facility would respond during an emergency. To obtain a permit, an

applicant must submit a detailed description of the facility's operations.

Information required in the permit application includes: an operations plan, the design of the facility, procedures for the analysis of waste, a personnel training plan, an emergency response plan, an inspection schedule, and future facility closure activities.

(continued on page 2)



Figure 2: Public Involvement in the Permit Process

DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY

Westates Carbon currently operates a commercial hazardous waste facility that stores and treats *spent activated carbon*. Spent activated carbon is a grainy material used in filtering systems to purify air and water. When the activated carbon is soaked with contaminants [con tam i nants], from the air or water, it is called 'spent,' because it is no longer able to purify the air or water.

Because of the contaminants, the spent activated carbon is considered to be a hazardous waste. This waste must be properly handled to remove, reduce or eliminate its dangers.

At Westates, the spent carbon is heated to high temperatures in a carbon regeneration [re gen er a tion] furnace. This process destroys most of the contaminants and *reactivates* the carbon. This means that the reactivated carbon can be sold as a commercial product to be reused in filtering systems.

Current hazardous waste operations at Westates are:

- treatment of spent activated carbon in a furnace, and
- storage of spent activated carbon in tanks and drums

In its permit application, Westates has proposed that it be able to:

- continue operation of the existing furnace
- add a second furnace for future operations
- continue storage in tanks
- increase the capacity of drum storage

PERMIT BACKGROUND

When EPA first began regulating carbon regeneration furnaces in 1991, several facilities had already been built that operated these furnaces. Those facilities, which included Westates, were given *interim status* (temporary permit) until a final permit decision could be made.

A final permit gives EPA greater ability to enforce stronger regulations and punish violations with monetary penalties.

Westates sent a final permit application to EPA in 1995. The facility proposed adding a second furnace and increasing drum storage capacity. Although EPA began reviewing the permit application at that time, the review was suspended due to lack of resources at EPA.

PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATION

Because Westates treats hazardous waste in a carbon regeneration furnace, it must conduct a *performance demonstration* as part of the permit application process. In the performance demonstration, Westates will operate the furnace at full capacity and test air emissions for hazardous chemicals.

Westates will use the results of the performance demonstration to prepare an evaluation of the risks of the operation. This is called a *risk assessment*.

EPA will review the results as well as the facility's risk assessment as part of the permit application review.

PERMIT COORDINATION

In addition to EPA's role, operations at Westates are also subject to approval by the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). EPA coordinates its environmental regulatory activities with CRIT and BIA. EPA also conducts joint inspections of Westates with CRIT and BIA. EPA commented on Environmental Assessments issued by the BIA in 1991 and 1996 and will continue to coordinate with CRIT and BIA during EPA's review of Westates permit application. EPA will also coordinate with any local agencies that have jurisdiction over Westates' operations during this process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

EPA wants to hear from the community and other agencies at any time throughout the review process, beginning with this notice. Also, we will let you know about two formal chances to give us your comments. We'll do this with a public notice to the local paper and to our mailing list about: (1) the Test Plan for the *performance demonstration*. [The Test Plan describes how Westates will conduct the demonstration.] This notice will appear in either the winter or spring of 2001; and (2) the risk assessment, the results of the performance demonstration and our draft permit decision. The timing of this notice will depend on when the performance demonstration is completed.

For More Information

Information about Westates Carbon, including the permit application, can be found at the following locations:

Tribal Library

CRIT Administrative Complex
2nd Avenue & Mohave Road
(about one mile southwest of Parker)
Parker, Az
Hours: Monday - Friday 8AM-12Noon & 1PM-5PM



Parker Public Library

1001 S. Navajo Avenue
Parker, AZ 85334
(520) 669-2622
Hours: 9:00AM - 7:00PM, Mon.-Fri.
9:00AM - 2:00PM, Sat.

The full administrative record is available for your review at EPA's San Francisco office. Please call Vern Christianson at 415-744-2422 for an appointment.