NMED Solid Waste Bureau: Permit Section Topics

New Mexico SWANA Roadrunner Chapter Meeting
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Permit Section Staff

- Darren Padilla (Hydrologist)
- James Dyer (Hydrologist)
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- Erica Ortega (Engineer Specialist)
- John Offersen (Environmental Scientist)
- Bill Schueler (Environmental Scientist)

Recent Permitting Actions (Past 12 Months)

- Southwest NM Regional Landfill
  - Modification application for one special waste (sludge)
  - Hearing: September 2012 (Silver City)
  - Permit modification issued November 6, 2012

Recent Permitting Actions (Past 12 Months)

- Clovis Regional Landfill
  - Permit renewal & modification application (MSW, C&D, green waste, numerous special wastes: spill of a chemical substance or commercial product; offal; ash; sludge; industrial solid waste; asbestos; PCS; special waste not otherwise specified)
  - Hearing: December 2012 (Clovis)
  - Permit renewal & modification issued January 16, 2013

Recent Permitting Actions (Past 12 Months)

- Alcalde Transfer & Recycling Facility
  - New permit application (MSW; C&D; recyclable materials; divertable materials, e.g., green waste, white goods)
  - Hearing: May 2013 (Alcalde)
  - New permit issued July 8, 2013

Recent Permitting Actions (Past 12 Months)

- De Baca County Solid Waste Facility
  - New permit application (C&D landfill; transfer station: MSW & recyclable materials; mortality composting)
  - Hearing: August 2013 (Fort Sumner)
  - New permit expected to be issued shortly

Current Permitting Actions

- Taos Regional Landfill
  - Modification application (sludge)
  - Awaiting additional information submittal
- Gavilan Canyon Transfer Station
  - Renewal application (MSW)
  - Awaiting submittal of revised application per 2nd RAI
- Otero/Greentree Regional Landfill
  - Renewal & modification application (MSW, C&D, asbestos, sludge, PCS)
  - Awaiting submittal of revised application per 2nd RAI

Current Permitting Actions

- Southwest C&D Landfill
  - Renewal & modification application
  - Reviewing revised application (1st revision)
- Sand Point Landfill
  - Renewal & modification application (MSW, C&D, green waste)
  - Awaiting submittal of revised application per 1st RAI
- Northeast NM Regional Landfill
  - Renewal & modification application (MSW, C&D, asbestos, sludge, PCS, industrial solid waste, spill of a chemical substance/commercial product; tire monofill)
  - Reviewing initial application

Current Permitting Actions

- Corralitos Landfill
  - Renewal & modification application (MSW, C&D, sludge, asbestos, PCS, offal, industrial solid waste, spill of a chemical substance or commercial product, special waste not otherwise specified)
  - Reviewing initial application

Future Permitting Actions

- Expecting at least three permit applications to be submitted by the end of the year
- ***Also:*** Permit Section is now handling commercial hauler and special waste hauler registrations

Technical Topics

- Updating background concentrations
  - Background concentrations are often calculated using few data points (e.g., five sampling events)
  - Few data points = limited ability to detect a difference between the background concentration and a detection monitoring event measurement
  - EPA's Unified Guidance (Chapter 5) recommends updating background when four to eight new measurements have been collected
  - SWB may ask that background concentrations be updated when sufficient additional data exist

Technical Topics

- Monitoring well screen lengths
  - Screen lengths should be reasonably short to minimize the effects of ambient flow within wellbores and plume dilution due to pumping
  - Ambient flow is caused by variations in hydraulic head with elevation in an aquifer:
    - Greater head at shallower elevations = downward flow
    - Greater head at deeper elevations = upward flow
  - Drawbacks of ambient flow:
    - Downward movement of shallow contaminant plume to previously uncontaminated portions of aquifer
    - Upward movement of uncontaminated GW causes dilution of shallow contaminant plume
  - Monitoring well pumping (even at low flow rates) induces flow over entire length of well screen = plume dilution

Technical Topics

- Monitoring well screen lengths (continued)
  - Ground Water Monitoring System Plans:
    - Future MW installations: well screens not to exceed 20 feet
    - Exception: Facilities with rapidly declining water levels merit use of greater screen lengths