



U.S. Filter Westates

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • FEBRUARY 2004

Hazardous Waste at Westates *UPDATED*

Westates is a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility located on the Colorado River Indian Reservation near Parker, Arizona. At Westates, spent carbon is treated in a carbon regeneration furnace. To receive information on other topics regarding Westates, please contact EPA. Contact information is located below.

WHAT KIND OF HAZARDOUS WASTE DOES WESTATES TREAT?

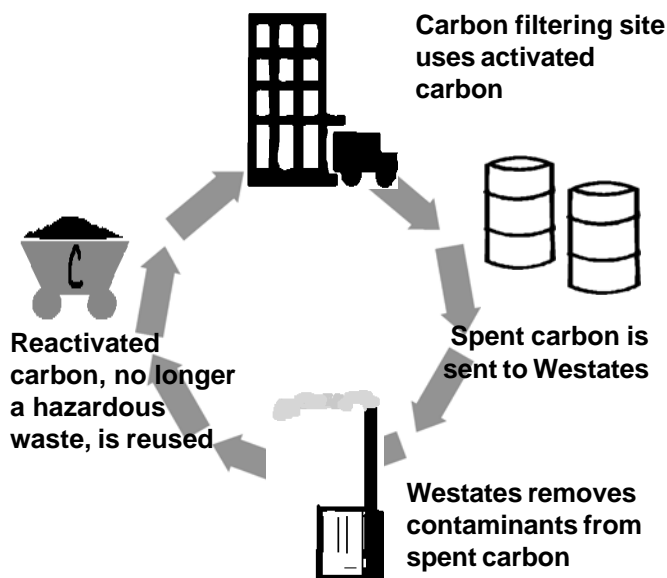
The hazardous waste that Westates treats is *spent carbon*. Spent carbon is a hazardous waste because it contains contaminants, or has come into contact with other hazardous wastes. It begins as *activated carbon*, which is a granular material that contaminants can easily stick to.

Numerous sites throughout the U.S. use activated carbon in filtering systems to purify air and water. The contaminants stick to the carbon grains, which removes them from the air or water. When there is no more room on the carbon grains for contaminants, the carbon is *saturated* with the contaminants. The saturated carbon is called *spent carbon* because it is no longer able to purify the air or water.

Sites operating the filtering systems generally send their spent carbon to carbon regeneration facilities. Westates is one such carbon regeneration facility. In the spent carbon, there may be a maximum of 1/3 of a pound of contaminant per pound of dry carbon. However, most carbon received at Westates is not saturated to this extent. According to Westates, the carbon they receive contains on average 1/200 of a pound of contaminant per pound of dry carbon.

At Westates, the contaminants are removed from the spent carbon and the carbon is *reactivated*. After it is treated at Westates, the reactivated carbon contains very little contamination and is no longer a hazardous waste. It is sold as product, and is used again in filtering systems.

Carbon Regeneration Cycle



CONTACT EPA:

If you have questions about Westates please contact:

Wenona Wilson

Community Involvement Coordinator

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Mail:

Wenona Wilson (SFD-3)

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or call our
toll free number:
1-800-231-3075

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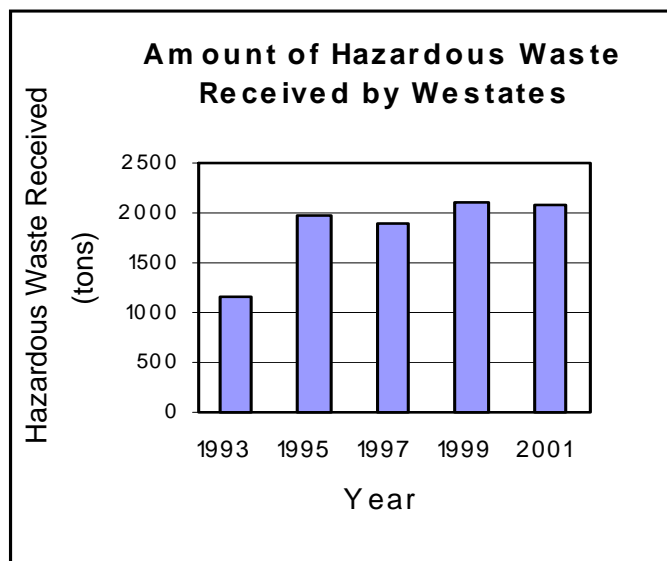
WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS IN THE SPENT CARBON AT WESTATES?

Most of the spent carbon that Westates treats contains *volatile organic compounds*. These compounds include benzene, trichloroethylene, and 1,2-dichloroethane. Some of the spent carbon contains *metals* and *pesticides*. The metal contaminants include barium, cadmium, chromium, and lead. The pesticide contaminants include aldrin, toxaphene, DDT, and lindane. If you would like to see a full list of the contaminants in the spent carbon that Westates treats, or if you would like health information on the contaminants listed above, please contact EPA at the address or phone number listed on the front page.

HOW MUCH HAZARDOUS WASTE DOES WESTATES RECEIVE?

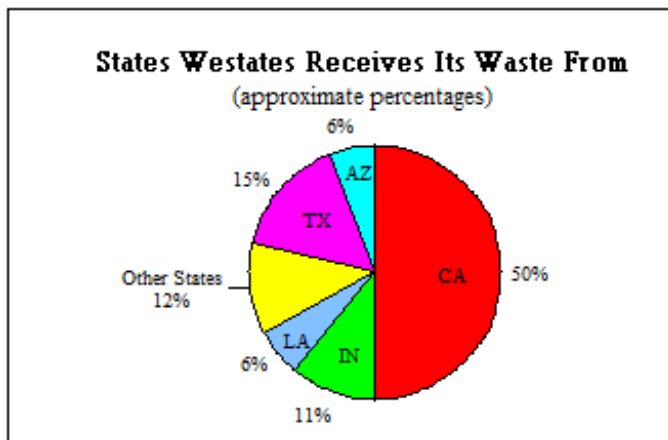
Of the spent carbon that Westates receives, about 2,000 tons per year are considered hazardous waste by EPA. Westates also receives spent carbon that is not considered hazardous by EPA, although it may be considered hazardous by some states.

EPA requires Westates to report the amount of hazardous waste it receives in each odd-numbered year. Westates reported receiving the following amounts of hazardous waste since it began operation in 1992:



WHERE DOES WESTATES GET ITS SPENT CARBON FROM?

The majority of the spent carbon that Westates treats in its carbon regeneration furnace comes from off-site. The waste comes from 36 different states. See the chart below.



Westates receives its spent carbon from many sources including:

- petroleum refining facilities
- chemical production facilities
- metal production facilities
- Superfund clean-ups

FOR INFORMATION IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE

If you would like to receive materials about Westates in another language, please contact Wenona Wilson at the toll free phone number and address on the front of this fact sheet.

PARA INFORMACION EN ESPAÑOL

Westates es una empresa de tratamiento y almacenaje de residuos peligrosos y está ubicada cerca de Parker, Arizona. Si usted desea recibir informacion en Español, por favor comuniquese con Wenona Wilson al numero de telefono (800) - llamada gratuita - o a la dirección al reverso de esta pagina.