



# U.S. Filter Westates

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

## Permitting Process 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 on the reverse of this fact sheet.

### WESTATES' REGULATORY HISTORY

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

In 2000, Westates told EPA they no longer wanted to add the second furnace or to increase drum storage capacity. EPA requested Westates to submit a new permit application. There are 5 major steps in this permit application (see column to the right).

Currently Westates is operating under *interim status*. Interim status is a temporary authorization to operate until EPA makes a permit decision. Please see the reverse for more information about interim status.

### WESTATES' PERMIT APPLICATION

There are 5 major steps Westates must complete during the permit application process. These steps are:

- ◆ send EPA a plan for an air emissions test
- ◆ conduct the air emissions test
- ◆ send EPA the results of the air emissions test
- ◆ send EPA a risk assessment
- ◆ send EPA a full permit application

Westates sent EPA their proposed Air Emissions Test Plan in December 2003. This is the first step in the process noted above. EPA is currently reviewing the plan for completeness and compliance with regulations.

### EPA'S PERMIT DECISION

EPA must make a permit decision at Westates. In this decision, EPA will either issue a permit for Westates to continue operating, or will deny the permit.

- ◆ *If EPA issues a permit to Westates*, the permit will control how Westates stores and treats hazardous waste. Compared to interim status, the permit will likely impose stronger requirements on Westates.
- ◆ *If EPA denies the permit*, Westates will have to stop storing and treating hazardous waste.

***The results of the air emissions test will help EPA to determine whether Westates can meet permitting standards for its carbon regeneration furnace.***

***Please see the reverse of this fact sheet for information about how you can comment on the proposed Air Emissions Test Plan.***

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## HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED AIR EMISSIONS TEST PLAN?

You may comment on the proposed Air Emissions Test Plan in writing until March 15, 2004, or during a public meeting on February 11, 2004 in Parker, Arizona.

On January 14, 2004 EPA issued a public notice inviting public comment on Westates' proposed Air Emissions Test Plan. EPA placed the public notice in the Parker Pioneer, and sent it to our mailing list. The Air Emissions Test Plan can be found at the Parker Public Library and the CRIT Library in Parker. You may also request a copy from EPA.

Once EPA finishes reviewing the test plan and hears public comments, EPA will request Westates to make any necessary revisions to the test plan. If EPA finds the revised test plan to be acceptable, EPA will approve the test plan.

***The results of the air emissions test are an important factor in EPA's permit decision.***

***Therefore, EPA wants to make sure that the air emissions test answers questions you may have about emissions from Westates.***

***We look forward to hearing your questions and comments regarding the air emissions test.***

## WESTATES' CURRENT OPERATIONS:

- ♦ one carbon regeneration furnace with a capacity of treating 2,760 pounds of spent carbon per hour
- ♦ storage of spent carbon in drums with a total capacity of 100,000 gallons
- ♦ storage of spent carbon in tanks with a total capacity of 35,000 gallons



## 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.

## "INTERIM STATUS" AT WESTATES

EPA first began regulating carbon regeneration furnaces in 1991. At that time, several facilities were already operating, or had begun constructing, carbon regeneration furnaces. Westates was one of those facilities. By law, EPA allowed these carbon regeneration furnaces to operate under *interim status*. Interim status is a temporary authorization to operate until EPA makes a permit decision. Under interim status, Westates must comply with regulations which require them to operate safely.

## CONTACT EPA:

**If you have questions about Westates please contact:**

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