

David Barber

May 27, 2026

HEARING COMMENTS TO
THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION No. SWB 24-08(P)
Of UNIVERSAL WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.
FOR A SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT
FOR BROADWAY TRANSFER STATION

Felica Orth, Hearing Officer

Madam Hearing Officer, I would like to thank you for briefly extending the closing of the Public Comments section of this process.

My name is David Barber, my wife and I are 32-year residents of the Mt. View Neighborhood, my wife has owned the property for over 50 years, her children attended Mt. View Elementary School. I swear that all the statements presented here are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I would like to start off with the fact that the Mt. View area has, for a very long time, been considered an Environmentally overburdened community. This proposed Waste Transfer Facility will only add to the seriousness of our situation. Health Studies have shown that the residents of the Mt. View Community, on an average, have a 15-year shorter life span that anywhere else in the greater Albuquerque area. We personally have lost our last two dogs to Lung Cancer and they always lived in this community. There is still a lot of concerns about the amount of toxins and particulates that will be released into the atmosphere, this is a big concern as the Mt. View Community and Elementary School are downhill from the facility and there are always winds blowing from East to West and these materials will settle in the low areas (our Neighborhood).

Broadway has always been a very busy road, in fact most of us would much prefer not to have to drive Broadway at all due to the excessive traffic but our options are few to almost none. There are several "Tank Farms" and Asphalt Plants in very close proximity to the proposed Transfer Station. These businesses along with the haulers hauling junk cars, to the too numerous to count, various Junk Yards in the area. When you add in the public and all other drivers using Broadway, it is an extremely busy road already without adding 400 to 500 new trucks to the road 6 days a week. It will only be a matter of time before people are killed, probably on their way home to their family's and loved ones. One of the things that make it worse is the number of people driving slower, looking for that Junk Yard, then seeing it on the other side of the road and make a sudden turn to get across 4 lanes of traffic without looking, this recently happened to me, had I not been expecting this type of behavior, who knows what would have happened to the two passengers of that car, not to mention me. I know my next statement is after the fact, but with the new proposed Interstate Truck Transloading Facility less than a mile South, will make Broadway just like a Los Angeles Freeway if it is allowed to go in.

There is talk about a new interchange going in about a mile South of Bobby Foster Rd on I-25 but at a meeting about 6 months ago that I attended, the County stated that that particular project has been on their "Hope To" wish list for over 10 years and at best, the planning is still probably 10 years out. Even expedited I would expect the soonest we would see that project built and used is 10 years out at best.

I know most of the "technical requirements" for this project have been met but, I seriously doubt that much thought, "if any", was given to the cumulative effects of all the existing data that this info would be added to. The permit process typically only takes into account what the overall effects are, only related to that project, not the entire surrounding neighborhood. It is kind of like a Rain Barrel, if there is only one downspout, there should not be any real concerns with capacity, but if there is already 10 to 15 downspouts into that one barrel you already have a huge problem without adding this new one. I also question the age of the Traffic Study that was used, what I saw was a 2017 Study and we all know that traffic has not decreased even one vehicle since. My guess would be at least double that info now.

A few of the questions I have are:

What is wrong with the landfills from the Counties this waste is coming from and how in the world is it cheaper to travel all the way to this Transfer Facility and pay the fees to process their waste? Not to mention the added pollutants along the traveled routes.

Question: Why on Earth would the County of Bernalillo and City of Albuquerque even consider allowing this amount of additional trash added to the Cerro Colorado land fill site?

Question: Does the Mayor and City Council even know about this proposed Facility?

Question: Who in their right mind thinks the inspection of only 2 of the potential 400 loads a day even begins to believe that that is an adequate amount of data to know what is truly going through the facility.

The subject of public notice is a huge sore point amongst all of the residents of the Mt. View Neighborhood. To start with, the requirement of notifying anyone within 100 feet of the proposed site is ludicrous, my property is 100 by 150 feet which means that I would only be required to notify my two neighbors at the most. The presenters seemed to be proud of the fact that 400 postcards were sent out to the over 2500 residents and that was more than adequate notification. That "suggests" they did not want people showing up to these meetings. If it hadn't been for a few of the neighborhood residents reaching out to a lot of their friends and neighbors, almost nobody would have been at the meeting. It was very apparent by the size of the room and the number of seats that were available that forced people to stand, the presenters did not expect that type of turnout. Had proper notification gone out, the turn out would probably be double.

I could go on but you get the point. As a final comment when the owner of United Waste Services stated that they would be hauling our neighborhood trash, he completely misspoke. At the meeting in 2024 he was asked the same question and his reply was that, Waste Management hauls our trash and that they had already told him they were not interested in their services. Not a good comment to folks that are already unhappy with the proposal.

I, 100% stand with my Neighbors and Community, when asking that you NOT approve this permit.
We already have more than enough dumped on us, without adding this to the pile.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Respectfully:

David Barber
Mt. View Resident