

Penelope Barber

Attached are some of my comments and concerns.

May 29, 2026, 3:10 pm

RE: 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

I attended the hearing on the proposed permit changes by the Universal Waste Systems (UWS) for the Solid Waste Transfer Station Facility at 5520 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM, held at the Sheraton Hotel on Friday, May 22, 2026. Below are my comments and concerns.

I have lived in the Mountain View Neighborhood since 1974 and became a proud property owner in 1979. As a single mom I raised two children in this neighborhood and we drank well water until it was deemed that it was so polluted and hazardous to our health that city water was brought in to some streets but not all. There are still many streets in the neighborhood that do not have city water. I currently have many family members, approximately 30, that still live in the community and are now raising their children.

Over the past 50 years I have watched the area of the Mountain View Community neighborhood, East of the railroad tracks to I-25 and South of Rio Bravo to the Isleta Reservation Boundary, become a dumping ground for junk yards, recycling facilities, batching plants, heavy equipment storage yards, composting companies, etc., etc., and become a dumping ground for so many polluting companies. Now we are again faced with the possibility of another company coming into our neighborhood to bring in solid waste from four counties into our neighborhood.

The original permit application, in 2024, by Universal Waste Systems for a 25,0000 sq. ft. waste transfer station to be built and located at 5520 Broadway Blvd SE in the Mountain View Community to bring 800-12,000 tons of municipal garbage in daily from 6 NM Counties (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant, Santa Fe, Valencia, Cibola). They are anticipating 488 vehicles and trucks in and out of the transfer station, daily, 6 days per week, and according to some information I received, "No community health assessment is required for this permit."

The meeting on Friday, May 22, 2026 at the Sheraton Hotel was a hearing on a proposed permit change that dropped two counties, Santa Fe and Cibola, with a couple of other changes but I don't recall what they were.

Regardless of the proposed permit changes, allowing this solid waste facility to be approved for operation, at 5520 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque NM, would once again negatively impact not only the Mountain View Neighborhood community but will affect every roadway, neighborhood business and community these 488 vehicles and trucks travel coming into and leaving the waste facility, traveling to the landfill on the West mesa.

The artery of roads that 488 vehicles and trucks will be traveling, from the four (4) Counties, transporting solid waste trash to the waste transfer facility include I-25, I-40, Rio Bravo and Broadway. In case of an emergency or to take a short cut, which often happens, Desert Rd, Prosperity, and 2nd Street will be used. 2nd Street and Rio Bravo are already so congested with traffic. I'm surprised that a traffic impact study is not a requirement for approving any company that will bring in a huge amount of new traffic. This community has very few roads in and out of the neighborhood and Broadway is a very dangerous road to travel now. There is also a proposed site for a housing development at the southwest corner of Rio Bravo and 2nd Street that will add so much more traffic on these roads.

It is my understanding; Solid Waste Transfer's **big trucks** will then transfer what is collected throughout the day and will then travel from the SWTF north on Broadway to Rio Bravo and west on Rio Bravo to the Cerro Colorado Landfill which is approximately 20-miles **one way**. This effects all communities and businesses along the way. All along the way they will be polluting the air with their current fleet of diesel burning trucks. According to Mr. Blackburn, president of UWS, they plan to convert their fleet of transport trucks to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) within 7-years. That's many years of polluting, before or if, they even do convert. That does not take into consideration the 400+ trucks and vehicles that will also add to the pollution that UWS has no control over, or the everyday traffic already on these roads.

What value will this solid waste transfer facility bring to our community:

- How will the Universal Waste Systems, Inc., Solid Waste facility, bringing in solid waste from four counties in New Mexico, enhance our Mountain View community and improve human and animal quality of life to our neighborhood?
- Besides the negative impact the solid waste facility will have on the already over polluted and overburden Mountain View Neighborhood community, this facility will negatively impact every road, street, neighborhood, school and business, the anticipated 488 vehicle and truck trips, in and out of the transfer station daily, 6 days per week, travel from four (4) counties.
- Not only will it impact the neighborhood negatively, it will also congest the streets we use on a daily basis when commuting to work, shopping, dropping kids off at school, school bus travel, not only in Mountain View but it will impact every highway coming into and going out of the facility.

At the Solid Waste Facility permit change hearing meeting on Friday, May 22, 2026, Mr. Blackburn, President of UWS made a statement saying, "I'm hauling your trash." This is not our trash this company is hauling, it is trash coming into and going out of our neighborhood from four counties. It is my understanding that our current Waste Management trash pickup will remain in place and is not contracting with UWS.

Why aren't more studies required and stronger permit laws in place to protect places we live, play, travel and breathe in. This is most definitely Environmental Injustice at it's best.

I OPPOSE the granting the proposed permit for UWS to expand their business to create the Solid Waste Transfer Facility at 5520 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque NM 87106, and ask the Environmental Improvement Board to consider what an impact this would be not only for the Mountain View Community but Albuquerque in general.

Everything I wrote is truthful and honest based on information I have received.

Thank you for extending the deadline for comments and for your consideration for the community comments and concerns.

Penelope J. Barber, High School education
& 50+ years resident of Mountain View Community,