

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation - Southwest

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Hazardous Waste Permitting Process at Romic

The Romic facility is located on the Gila River Indian Reservation at 6760 West Allison Road, in the Lone Butte Industrial Park just southwest of Chandler, AZ.




Romic currently operates as a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility that is primarily engaged in recycling of solvents. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks comments from the public on Romic's final permit application to continue to store and treat hazardous waste and to expand its operations.

"Interim Status" at Romic

Federal laws regulating hazardous wastes were passed in 1980, well after the Romic facility had been in operation under the company name "Southwest Solvents." When Romic bought the facility, EPA granted Romic "interim status," a temporary permit to continue operations and handle hazardous waste until EPA makes its final permit decision. Under interim status, Romic must comply with regulations which require the facility to be operated safely.

Romic's Current Operations

- Two storage buildings that hold approximately 2,200 drums of hazardous waste. 
- 13 above ground tanks that hold approximately 93,800 gallons of hazardous waste.
- Three hazardous waste solvent recycling processes and one recycling unit for aerosol cans.

Romic's Permit History

1981: Southwest Solvents submitted Part A of the hazardous waste permit application to EPA and was granted Interim Status.

1988: Romic Environmental Technologies purchased Southwest Solvents, submitted a revised Part A application, and was granted Interim Status. Romic also submitted a more extensive Part B application to apply for a final permit.

1988-1994: EPA reviewed Romic's permit application and issued several Notices of Deficiency.

1994: Romic's permit application substantially complete except for the necessary review and signature of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), who are the landowners of the Romic property.

1994-2002: EPA worked with GRIC to agree on certification language to accompany the final signature on the permit application. Romic was bought by new owners and there were several changes at the facility.

2002: EPA recognized that public involvement was long overdue and that there had been changes at the facility, so EPA requested that Romic submit an updated permit application. EPA received Romic's updated application in December.

2004: EPA conducted an extensive site review of the Romic facility and discussed deficiencies in the permit application with Romic in March. Romic resubmitted revised portions of the permit application in May, which EPA and GRIC are currently reviewing.

CONTACT EPA:

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

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Romic's Permit Application

In the current permit application, Romic is requesting a ten year permit to treat and store hazardous waste. In addition, they are proposing to expand their hazardous waste storage and treatment capacity. (Please see the fact sheet, "Romic - Current Activities and Proposed Expansion of Facility" for details.) Romic's permit application covers a number of topics including:



- description of facility operations
- plan for analyzing wastes
- information on process units
- procedures for reducing air emissions
- plan for emergencies
- employee training plan
- plan for final closure of the facility
- financial assurance for closure

The Permit Process

Steps Completed:

- Romic conducts a pre-application public meeting (12/02)
- Romic submits a permit application (12/02)
- EPA issues public notice and fact sheet (6/04)

Ongoing:

- EPA consults with the Gila River Indian Community and other interested parties
- EPA conducts informational public meetings and other forms of public participation
- EPA evaluates the permit application and submits Notices of Deficiency as necessary

Future Steps:

- The Gila River Indian Community decides whether or not to sign the permit application
- EPA issues completeness letter to Romic when, and if, the application is complete
- EPA opens 45-day public comment period and issues Draft Permit Decision, Public Notice, and request for comments
- EPA holds a public hearing
- EPA prepares a response to all comments
- EPA provides public notice of final decision

Permit Decision Options

EPA must make a final decision whether a permit should be denied or issued for Romic to continue operating.

If EPA denies the permit, Romic will have to stop storing and/or treating hazardous waste.

If EPA issues a permit to Romic, the permit will control how Romic stores and treats hazardous waste. The permit must be renewed every ten years.

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) will also need to make a decision in regards to the facility, when it decides whether or not to sign the permit application.

Other Applicable Laws

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is the primary law pertaining to permitting of hazardous waste management facilities. In addition to RCRA, EPA must ensure that any other applicable federal requirements are considered during the permitting process, such as:

- National Historic Preservation Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Environmental Justice Executive Order

For more information on these laws, please see EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov>.

Public Participation



EPA will conduct the review of Romic's permit application in consultation with GRIC. There will be full public involvement for all interested parties. The EPA invites public comment on all aspects of the materials prepared by Romic and EPA. Please call or write EPA to learn how you can be involved in the decision process for the Romic permit application. Romic's Permit Application is available for review at the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality in Sacaton, AZ and EPA's RCRA Records Center in San Francisco, CA.