

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Notice of Comment Period and Public Hearing
Concerning the Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit/PSD Approval
to Universal Cement in Chicago

Universal Cement, 2222 South Lumber Street in Chicago, Illinois, 60616, has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) for a construction permit and Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) approval for a new Portland cement manufacturing plant at South Torrence Avenue and East 117th Street in Chicago. The proposed plant would have one cement kiln and have the capacity to produce approximately a million tons of cement per year.

The proposed plant is in an area designated as non-attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The plant would be considered a major new source for emissions of nitrogen oxides (as a precursor for ozone) and sulfur dioxide (as a precursor of PM_{2.5}) under the state rules for Major Stationary Sources Construction and Modification (MSSCAM), 35 IAC Part 203.

The facility is also a major source for emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM/PM₁₀) and greenhouse gases under the federal rules for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), 40 CFR 52.21.

Based on its review of the application, the Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that the application meets the standard for issuance and has prepared a draft permit for public review and comment. The Illinois EPA is holding a public comment period and a hearing to accept comments from the public on the proposed issuance of a permit for this project, prior to making a final decision on the application.

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Air will hold a public hearing on October 19, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the theatre at Olive-Harvey College, 10001 S. Woodlawn Avenue in Chicago. The hearing will be held to receive comments and answer questions from the public prior to making a final decision concerning the application. The hearing will be held under the Illinois EPA's "Procedures for Permit and Closure Plans," 35 IAC 166, Subpart A. Lengthy comments and questions should be submitted in writing. Requests for interpreters (including sign language) must be made by September 30, 2011. Any questions about hearing procedures or requests to address special needs should be made to the Illinois EPA, Dean Studer, Hearing Officer, Re: Universal Cement, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, 217/558-8280.

Written comments must be sent to the Hearing Officer and postmarked by midnight, November 18, 2011, unless otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer. Written comments need not be notarized.

Persons wanting more information may obtain copies of the draft permit and project summary at <http://www.epa.gov/reg5oair/permits/ilonline.html>. These documents and the

application can also be viewed at the Chicago Public Library – Vodak-East Side Branch, 3710 E. 106th Street in Chicago and at the Illinois EPA's offices at 9511 West Harrison in Des Plaines, 847/294-4000 and 1340 N. Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (for either Illinois EPA location please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you).

For information or requests about the application or draft permit, please contact:
Brad Frost, Community Relations, Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., Box 19506, Springfield, IL 62794-9506, 217/782-7027 or 217/782-9143 TDD.

As a major source, the NO_x and sulfur dioxide emissions as precursors for ozone and/or PM_{2.5} are subject to Lowest Achievable Emission Rate (LAER) under MSSCAM. As a major source, the NO_x, SO₂, CO, PM/PM₁₀ and greenhouse gases emissions from the plant are subject to Best Available Control Technology (BACT) under PSD. The Illinois EPA's initial review concludes that the proposed control measures for the plant, as described in the application and discussed in the project summary will provide BACT and LAER for the project.

Under MSSCAM, Universal Cement must obtain emissions offsets from existing sources in the Chicago nonattainment area for the increase in nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide emissions from the project. Universal Cement will need to obtain 1004 tons of NO_x offsets (a 1.15:1.0 ratio) and 231.1 tons of SO₂ offsets (a 1:1 ratio).

Pursuant to the PSD regulations, Universal performed an air quality analysis which has been reviewed by the Illinois EPA. The modeling indicated that SO₂ and CO emissions will not exceed significant impact levels. For PM₁₀ and NO₂ the modeling indicated exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Further analysis indicates that for PM₁₀, background levels are the significant contributor to ambient exceedances. Further analysis for NO₂ indicates that the probability of Universal Cement exceeding the 1-hour NO₂ Significant Impact Level is insignificant.