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Talley Officially Withdraws Burn Permit Application at Mesa Facility

PHOENIX (Feb. 19, 2008) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that Talley Defense Systems has officially withdrawn its application for an open burn permit at the company's Mesa facility.

In a Feb. 10 letter, Talley advised ADEQ that the company is terminating the burn permit application it had submitted in November 2007. The letter noted that the company has found alternative ways to dispose of propellant wastes generated at the facility. Talley also told ADEQ that the company is developing an improved method to obtain U.S. Department of Transportation classifications for its experimental research materials to ship them off-site for disposal.

Talley's previous air quality permit from ADEQ expired in mid-January, and ADEQ had advised Talley that the department did not intend to renew the permit.

ADEQ Director Steve Owens said he was pleased with Talley's decision.

"Talley has not burned any waste at the site for more than a year and we told the company that we did not believe that any future burns could be justified," Director Owens said. "We are committed to protecting the health and safety of the residents in the area. This should resolve this matter once and for all."

Owens announced in December that the agency was withdrawing a proposed draft hazardous waste permit for the company and was giving close scrutiny to Talley's request to burn waste materials at the site.

Talley also has committed to ADEQ to submit a plan for investigating and cleaning up perchlorate contamination in the soil and groundwater at the facility.

Talley makes weapons and propellant airplane escape systems for the U.S. military at the Mesa facility. When the Talley plant was constructed in the 1960s, the site was far removed from any residents in the area. In recent years, however, subdivisions have been constructed closer to the plant as Mesa has expanded northward.