



BENTON CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Burn Line 509-783-6198 Updated 9:00 AM

Application for Variance for Tumbleweed Disposal

Chapter 173-425 WAC – Outdoor Burning

Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	Variance ID <i>(For Agency Use Only)</i> :
Applicant Information		Date: January 27, 2021
Company: City of West Richland		
Contact Name: Roscoe Slade	Phone: 509-967-5434	
Address: 100 Belmont Blvd Suite 102	Fax:	
City: West Richland	State, Zip: WA 99353	
Email: roscoe@westrichland.org	ilka@westrichland.org	
Owner Information (if other than Applicant)		
Contact Name:	Phone:	
Address:	Fax:	
City:	State, Zip:	
Email:		
Time Period: (not greater than a year)		
From: March 12, 2021	To: March 12, 2022	
Requirements for Granting a Variance:		
RCW 70.94.181 (1) Variances may be issued by either the department or a local board but only after public hearing or due notice, if the department or board finds that: (a) The emissions occurring or proposed to occur do not endanger public health or safety or the environment; and (b) Compliance with the rules or regulations from which variance is sought would produce serious hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public.		
General Description of Request:		
The City is requesting permission to use a metal fabricated towable device, which will be used to burn/incinerate tumbleweeds in areas which affect the health and welfare of the citizens. Device would be used on the public way. City staff would transport and use the device.		
Location of Request: (location of property for operation, and owner of property)		
Numerous locations within the City of West Richland during the year, notification of location would be communicated to BCAA prior to each separate use.		



BENTON CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Burn Line 509-783-6198 Updated 9:00 AM

Identify the applicable regulation from which the variance is needed: (173-425-050(5) Burning in outdoor containers)

(173-425-050(5) Burning in outdoor containers)

Identify the exceptional circumstances that preclude strict conformity with the regulation identified. Explain how strict conformity would cause undue hardship.

The amount of tumbleweeds produced and collected in these areas have overwhelmed residents, as well as produced access issues to various streets and walk ways within the City. This option allows a relatively cost effective means to dispose of the vegetation.

Explain why there are not any current, practicable means of preventing the situation to be addressed with this variance?

Due to the vegetation type (tumbleweeds) coming from properties outside of the city, as well as from properties not owned by individual or city property owners, there is not a current or possible way to keep them from collecting on land within the City of West Richland on either the public way or onto individual properties. The City of West Richland or individual property owners do not control the movement nor the growth of this vegetation and there is no means known at this time to accomplish that. It creates not only an unmanageable nuisance but also affects fire loading in and around homes and access issues to the public way.

How would this variance benefit public health or safety?

Reducing the vegetative load surrounding homes reduces the fire load and potential impact to the homes during fires, which occur regularly in that area. It also increases accessibility in and around the homes to the residents, and following wind events the use of the device will assist in opening up areas of the public way affected by the load of tumbleweeds.

How would pollutant emissions be affected as a by this variance? (increase, decrease, change)

No anticipated increase in pollution as burning of the tumbleweeds are currently allowed.



BENTON CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Burn Line 509-783-6198 Updated 9:00 AM

Fire Safety: Describe provisions made for fire safety.

Unit would have shovel, and fire extinguisher mounted on trailer, spark arrestor designed into unit. Stand-off barrier to keep persons away from sides. Use would be by trained personnel, and at site, water hose, if available would be present.

Operation Plan: Describe general plan for operations; time of day; crews; locations; number of days, etc.

The unit would be deployed after an identified wind event, or when amount of vegetation is noted present. Notification by the city through either public works department. Staff assigned would deploy to area, and inform on duty Battalion Chief of the fire department. Use would be during daylight hours, not during Red Flag warning days, nor other extreme fire weather conditions, and upon approval of BCAA burn day. Presumed days would be during weekdays, but some week-ends with coordination of citizens if necessary.

Technical Specifications: (include drawing/sketch, materials, dimensions, photographs, etc.)

The device is a road safe trailer mounted metal box with overhead spark type arrestor, fuel/ignition is by propane torch.

Equipment Identification: Include some method for specifically identifying the piece(s) of equipment intended for coverage under this variance. (photo, plate number, ID number)

Unit will be licensed, identifying information to be provided to BCAA when it is.

General Conditions of Permit for Variance:

- Fire safety plan is in place.
- The equipment is to be operated by the variance applicant or designated representative.
- The Benton Clean Air Agency Burn Line must be checked to assure there are no restrictions on tumbleweed burning (fire safety, wind, or other).
- The operation must be conducted on land controlled by the permit holder.
- Benton Clean Air Agency must be notified each day before the operation begins, and when it is done. Notification must include general location and timing.
- Operation must be completed by one hour before sunset.
- A copy of this document must be kept on hand.



BENTON CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Burn Line 509-783-6198 Updated 9:00 AM

Responsible Official Certification:

I certify that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.


Roscoe C Slade III, P.E.

Name

June 16, 2021

Date

Public Works Director

Position

For Agency Only Use Beyond This Point

Specific Conditions of Permit for Variance:

BCAA Staff Recommendation:

This application for variance is: Approved Denied

Benton Clean Air Agency Board Chair

Date

Printed Name