Application for Variance for Tumbleweed Disposal
Chapter 173-425 WAC – Outdoor Burning

Original [ ] Renewal [ ]

Aplicant Information
Company: City of West Richland
Contact Name: Roscoe Slade
Address: 100 Belmont Blvd Suite 102
City: West Richland
Email: roscoe@westrichland.org

Phone: 509-967-5434
Fax:
State, Zip: WA 99353
Email: ilka@westrichland.org

Owner Information (if other than Applicant)
Contact Name:
Address:
City:
Email:
Phone:
Fax:
State, Zip:

Time Period: (not greater than a year)
From: March 12, 2020
To: March 12, 2021

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.
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Fire Safety:</strong> Describe provisions made for fire safety.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Operation Plan:</strong> Describe general plan for operations; time of day; crews; locations; number of days, etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Technical Specifications:</strong> (include drawing/sketch, materials, dimensions, photographs, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The device is a road safe trailer mounted metal box with overhead spark type arrestor, fuel/ignition is by propane torch.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Equipment Identification:</strong> Include some method for specifically identifying the piece(s) of equipment intended for coverage under this variance. (photo, plate number, ID number)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit will be licensed, identifying information to be provided to BCAA when it is.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>General Conditions of Permit for Variance:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fire safety plan is in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The equipment is to be operated by the variance applicant or designated representative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Benton Clean Air Agency Burn Line must be checked to assure there are no restrictions on tumbleweed burning (fire safety, wind, or other).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The operation must be conducted on land controlled by the permit holder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Operation must be completed by one hour before sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A copy of this document must be kept on hand.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Responsible Official Certification:
I certify that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Roscoe C Slade III, P.E. March 12, 2020
Name 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