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## Pima County Issuing Brush Ceramic Products, Inc. Permit

### News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Beth Gorman (520) 724-7446

*Tucson, Arizona* (November 7, 2006) Tucson, Arizona - The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) is issuing an air quality permit renewal for the Brush Ceramic Products, Inc. (BCP) facility. BCP is located at 6100 South Tucson Boulevard in Tucson, Arizona. An air quality permit is a document that contains specific requirements for the business to operate in a manner that complies with air quality regulations. BCP is being permitted for beryllium emissions. Stack tests of BCP emissions have shown that the amount of beryllium that is released into the atmosphere is well below the standard set by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The new permit will be in effect for five years, however, PDEQ will continue to track any changes that occur in health standards for beryllium and will revise the permit to comply with any new standards.

The initial process to renew the BCP permit began in 1999. Since that time, PDEQ staff has continued to review and research the comments received from the public. Staff has also met with individuals who contacted the department to discuss the proposed permit requirements.

PDEQ has extensively revised the original permit to include greatly increased reporting requirements, increased monitoring and record keeping, more rigorous operation and maintenance procedures, an emissions prevention plan, and many other requirements. The new permit contains much stricter requirements than the original permit and will provide additional information to PDEQ to verify BCP's compliance with its permit.

In addition to the new permit requirements, a voluntary agreement has been negotiated with BCP to cover some of the costs of increased air quality monitoring near the facility. With this agreement, there will be a total of six air quality monitoring sites to test the ambient air for beryllium near BCP. The filters collected from these sites will be sent by PDEQ to an independent laboratory for analysis. As soon as it is received from the laboratory, PDEQ will have the monitoring data available for public review on the PDEQ web page at [www.deq.pima.gov](http://www.deq.pima.gov). The monitoring data will provide information about the actual concentrations of beryllium in the air that people breathe.

Sunnyside School District has been monitoring for beryllium at four sites on school campuses near BCP for five years. The equipment at these four sites will be upgraded as part of the agreement and two new school sites will be added. The six sites will be operated by PDEQ in conjunction with the Sunnyside School District. To date, the results of the Sunnyside School District monitoring indicate that, if detectable, airborne beryllium levels are well below the EPA standard. In addition, a review of BCP health impacts recently undertaken by the Arizona Department of Health Services classified the emissions from the facility as "No Apparent Public Health Hazard." The increase in the ambient monitoring will be in place of quarterly stack emissions testing. BCP will still be required to do stack emissions testing on an annual basis. PDEQ will also continue to perform unannounced inspections of the facility.



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