4.7.1 Location Requirements

A miscellaneous unit, such as an OB/OD unit, must be constructed at a remote location to protect personnel and property from the potentially destructive effects of explosions. The unit must be separated adequately from off-site inhabited buildings and public roads and railways. The Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) provides guidance for determining adequate distances between OB/OD units and public highways, passenger railways, and inhabited buildings DoD-Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standard (DoD 1978). In the case of a military OB/OD unit, the manual will be the primary source of the necessary information, while either the DDESB manual or commercial information may be used for nonmilitary OB/OD units. Factors that must be considered in siting OB/OD units include (1) the maximum quantity of explosive wastes that will be treated in the unit at any one time, (2) the number of burning pads used by the facility, and (3) wind direction. In addition, 40 CFR § 265.382 provides guidance on acceptable minimum distances between OB/OD units and other properties, such as roadways and inhabited properties. Permit writers should require that OB/OD activities be conducted in accordance with the minimum safety distances specified in 40 CFR §265.382.

In the case of an OB/OD unit that has multiple burning pads, the pads must be separated adequately to prevent detonation of the explosives on one pad by the unexpected detonation of explosives on another pad. If any two or more pads that will have explosive wastes present at the same time are not separated adequately from each other, such two or more pads must be managed as a single burning pad.

To satisfy the location requirements, the permit applicant should provide a map that shows the location of the OB/OD unit and the area in its vicinity, including buildings and public highways, railways, and inhabited buildings. Much of the necessary information may already be included in the general information section of the application. The applicant should indicate in this section where the information can be found