



# Skagit Valley Farm

**Rick Garlock**

Safety Manager  
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**Chris Martin**

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Bellevue, WA. 98008-5452  
[Cmar461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Cmar461@ecy.wa.gov)

Dear Chris Martin,

I am submitting to Department of Ecology, for consideration, a formal permit revision of the Skagit Valley Farm Wastewater Discharge Permit: ST0501320

The permit as written requires:

**Wastewater Discharge:**

Monthly -20- parameters tests.  
Semi-Annually- 8- parameters tests.  
Annually- 1-parameters tests.

**Groundwater Monitoring:**

Monthly- 1 parameter test. (Well static water level)  
Quarterly- 21 parameter tests.  
Semi-Annually- 7 parameter tests.

**Soil Monitoring:**

Annual- 19 parameter tests.

**Annual permit Fee- \$4,000. (Based on 33,000 gallons of daily discharge water).**

**Annual testing Fees- \$36,000**

**Basis for Skagit Valley Farm Permit Modification:**

- New water circulation system –recirculation system significantly reduces the amount of daily discharge water. Even under the current system, our discharge volume is considerably below the original permit allowance.
- Decommissioned and removed ice maker and 90 tons of ice melt runoff.
- Eliminated two crops from our processing program. Broccoli and Cauliflower processing is a water intensive process. These have been eliminated. Brussel Sprouts is the only commodity processed in the plant.

The annual permit fee, frequency and parameter testing is costly. We respectfully request a review of the current parameter testing requirements and consider testing only those which pose a significant impact to the approved discharge area and surface / groundwater.

The Annual Fee, if based on discharge volume, review the cost and adjust to our actual daily flow.

Frequency reduction could be based on the true burden to the discharge area. With our water volume reduction, greater than half, could potentially mean a testing frequency of Semi-Annual plan.

We appreciate your consideration and welcome further discussions to arrive at a testing program that better aligns to our processing / packing practices.

If you would like additional information, please contact me anytime.

Sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Garlock", written over a white background.

**Rick Garlock**