




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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TO: Fresh Fruit Packing Permittees

FROM: Marcia Porter — Permit Manager — Fresh Fruit Packing General Permit 

DATE: June 22, 2021

SUBJECT: NPDES General Permit expiration reminder and information about operating under an extended permit

Hello,

This is a reminder that the 2021 reissuance of the Fresh Fruit Packing General Permit is under way. **This affects all permit coverages under the fresh fruit packing general permit.** We plan to public notice the proposed draft general permit within the next couple of months and we expect to issue the final proposed permit no later than November, 2021, with an effective date of January 1, 2022.

Since the current permit expires August 31, 2021, the permit will be expired for several months before the effective date of the proposed permit. The current permit and its terms and conditions are hereby **administratively extended** and will **remain in effect and enforceable until Ecology issues the next general permit.**

What you should know about your current coverage under an expired, extended permit:

- During this extension period, the requirements of the existing permit are still in effect.
- Ecology cannot issue new permit coverage, modified permit coverage, or approve renewed coverage between September and December until the proposed permit is effective. If we receive an NOI prior to or during this period, we will review it and issue permit coverage once the proposed permit is effective.
- If you need new coverage or must modify your existing coverage, we encourage you to submit your request well ahead of August 31, 2021 to ensure you are able to begin permitted activities as soon as the new permit is effective.

To date, your application(s) for renewed coverage under the upcoming permit have been successfully received.

I encourage you to contact me if you have any concerns with the upcoming permit process and changes. The changes include:

- Authorizes conditional discharges for some permittees;
- Requires additional documentation for certain types of expansions to facilities;

June 22, 2021

Page 2

- Expands the TDM's allowed for certain products and adds additional products for use;
- Includes permit requirements for two additional total maximum daily loads (TMDL);
- Requires flow meter installation for some permittees;
- Reduces drencher monitoring to one per harvest season;
- Expands the options for use of new or emerging post-harvest products on a limited basis.

All permitted facilities and interested parties are encouraged to review the draft proposed general permit and fact sheet, as well as to participate in all public process events to fully understand the changes and how proposed changes may impact them.

Monitor the Fresh Fruit Packing General Permit renewal process and learn about public process involvement opportunities, via the Fresh Fruit Packing General Permit website at:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Fresh-fruit-packing-general-permit>

Please contact me at marcia.porter@ecy.wa.gov or 509-406-6624 for further information.