



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 26, 2022

Mr. Steven Gemperle
728 134th St SW
Suite 103
Everett WA 98204-5322

Re: **WARNING LETTER** for State Waste Discharge Permit Number ST0045510
National Food NW Hilltop Farm

Dear Steven Gemperle:

This letter is to inform you that your facility was out of compliance with the conditions in your industrial wastewater discharge permit as listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Numeric Effluent Violations for July and November 2021 (see Permit Special Condition S1.A.)

Date	Parameter	Measurement	Units	Limit	Limit Type
7/6/2021	Flow	4253	Gallons/Day	4000	Maximum Daily
7/27/2021	Oil & Grease	20	mg/L	15	Maximum Daily
July 2021	Oil & Grease	20	mg/L	10	Average Monthly
November 2021	Oil & Grease	14	mg/L	10	Average Monthly

Table 2. Discharge Monitoring Reports Submitted Late for 2021 (Permit Special Condition S3.A.)

Monitoring Period	Begin Date	End Date	Due Date	Date Submitted	Days Late
February 2021	2/1/2021	2/28/2021	3/28/2021	4/9/2021	12
April 2021	4/1/2021	4/30/2021	5/28/2021	6/2/2021	5
May 2021	5/1/2021	5/31/2021	6/28/2021	7/23/2021	25
July 2021	7/1/2021	7/31/2021	8/28/2021	9/13/2021	16
September 2021	9/1/2021	9/30/2021	10/28/2021	11/1/2021	4
November 2021	11/1/2021	11/30/2021	12/28/2021	2/11/2022	45
December 2021	12/1/2021	12/31/2021	1/28/2022	2/11/2022	14
2 nd Half of 2021	7/1/2021	12/31/2021	1/28/2022	2/11/2022	14
January 2022	1/1/2022	1/28/2022	2/28/2022	3/15/2022	15
February 2022	2/1/2022	2/28/2022	3/28/2022	4/7/2022	10
Jan-Feb 2022	1/1/2022	2/28/2022	3/28/2022	4/7/2022	10
March 2022	3/1/2022	3/28/2022	4/28/2022	Ready to Submit	

Non-compliance notifications are required by your permit. You must submit this notice immediately. You have not submitted a notice of non-compliance or explained the cause of the violations on your November 2021 Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR), therefore you are in violation of your permit. You may refer to

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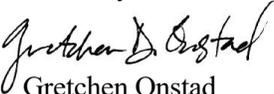
permit section S3.E. for more information about what must be included in a written notice of non-compliance. You have complied with this permit requirement for July 2021 violations.

In addition, the lab report attached to your November 2021 DMR shows analysis of *E.coli* rather than fecal coliform while DMRs for all other months report fecal coliform (**permit section S1.A**). You must report the fecal coliform result (if it is available) and include an explanation on your notice of noncompliance for violations in November 2021.

The DMR is the principal tool used to evaluate compliance with permit requirements. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) places great importance on the **timely submittal of complete and accurate DMRs. Exceedance of Oil & Grease limits is a recurring issue for your facility.** Ecology recommends that you take action to prevent this violation in the future. If you fail to comply with the conditions of your permit, Ecology may take formal administrative enforcement action, including issuing orders and penalties. Ecology's enforcement authority for state waste discharge permits is governed by Chapter 173-216 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your permit manager Chris Martin at christopher.martin@ecy.wa.gov or (425) 577-3854.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Onstad
Compliance Specialist
Water Quality Program

e-cc: Permit and Reporting Information System (PARIS): National Food NW Hilltop Farm, ST0045510
Chris Martin, Ecology
Monika Kannadaguli, Ecology
Steve Gemperle, Manager, National Food NW LLC, sgemperle@gemperle.com
Bryon Delestrez, Plant Manager, National Food NW Hilltop Farm, bdelestrez@natlfood.com
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