		State of Washington Department of Ecology WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT			Central Regional Office 1250 W Alder ST Union Gap, WA 98903 ph: (509) 575-2490 fax: (509) 575-2809 (rev. 7-17-18)	
Section A: General Information						
Report Version	PERMIT #	mm/dd/yy	Inspection Type	Inspector Code	Facility Type	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Changed <input type="checkbox"/> Deleted	ST0009263	01/04/2023	C	S	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="radio"/> Private	
Remarks						
N/A						
Inspection work days	Facility Self-Monitoring	Photos Taken	Samples Taken	BI	QA	
1.0		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	N	N	
Lead Ecology Inspector(s) Stephanie Giesin						
Section B: Facility Data						
Name, Location, and Phone of Facility Inspected Mercer Wine Estates LLC 3100 Lee Rd Prosser, WA 99350			Entry Time		Permit Effective Date	
			10:00 am		10/01/2019	
Name(s)/Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s) Sean Kendall – General Manager			Exit Time		Permit Expiration Date	
			11:35 am		9/30/2024	
Name, Address, Title, Phone, and Fax Number of Responsible Official Sean Kendall 3100 Lee Rd Prosser, WA 99350			Ecology Staff On-Site Stephanie Giesin – Permit Developer/Permit Manager Erik Van Doren – Technical Unit Supervisor			
Phone Number 509-786-2097 Fax N/A Contacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			Other Facility Data N/A			
Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow Measurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operations & Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Records/Reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Effluent <input type="radio"/> Receiving Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solids Handling/ Waste Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Pollution Prevention			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility Site Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Schedules	<input type="checkbox"/> Pretreatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia			
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Monitoring Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storm Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Other			

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

The purpose of this inspection was to get a general walkthrough of the facility and to discuss sampling for their Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs).

Erik and I arrived at the facility at 10:00 am and met Sean in the tasting room. Erik introduced us and explained our roles. He discussed permits and industrial users that discharge to POTW and explained that we would be interested to see where the wastewater they generate goes through drains at the facility.

First, Sean took us outside to the crush pad. Sean explained they have recently added a Lees tank which is emptied and hauled off by a tanker truck to Natural Selection Farms, a beneficial use facility located near Sunnyside, WA. All drains go to the sump which can change for discharging stormwater to the basin in the back of the building during post-harvest or to the POTW during harvest. During harvest, the stormwater/effluent sump directs all wastewater from the crush pad to the City of Prosser. The sump is cleaned following harvest and the drain is plumbed to direct stormwater to a basin to the north of the facility.

Inside the facility, all production tanks have a high and low door where solids can be removed and floor drains have screens to capture larger solids/debris from going down the drain. Tanks and valves are cleaned with a mobile pressure washer/ clean in place (CIP) system. They use food grade caustic and acid washes for cleaning the tanks. Sean also mentioned the use of an

oxidizer he described that is much like oxy clean.

Sean described their former practice of manually using a plate and frame filtration apparatus for removing undesirable solids from the wine before bottling. They recently installed a new system Oenoflow XL that is more efficient for removing undesirable solids and moved away from using the plate and frame system. However, he has noticed that when they are cleaning the Oenoflow XL, the pH was found at times to be outside the range they are permitted to discharge (pH 4-11). After noticing the pH being variable when cleaning the Oenoflow he asked his crew to capture the wastewater into bins to check pH before they discharge to the POTW.

Adjacent to the winery production (tank room) is their bottling room. The bottling line requires minimal amounts of water only used to steam and sterilize equipment. There are no chemicals used in the sterilization process. All drains in the bottling area go to the POTW.

Located at the northwest corner of the facility site is a constructed shed that houses the wastewater flow metering totalizer and composite sampler. The City of Prosser wastewater operators have access to the flow meter totalizer and sampling unit. Operators collect the samples and analyze them for BOD/TSS. Adjacent to the shed is the stormwater basin. I observed dark stains in the basin which indicates the sump water from the crush pad was not plumbed correctly to the POTW. As mentioned previously, only stormwater is allowed to be discharged to the basin. Lines should be flushed adequately to ensure no facility process wastewater is discharged to the stormwater basin. Sean commented that water has been diverted to the wrong location on days when they are in production and informed his crew not to allow these process wastewater discharges from the crush pad area to occur. No groundwater discharges are allowed under the facility's permit, only discharges to the POTW.

Sean showed us the sampler and said that its usually off when he comes out and Erik said that when Prosser comes to retrieve the sample, they are likely only turning it on for the days they intend to collect a composite sample. Mercer's reported several pH violations on their DMRs this year and in previous years. Erik informed Sean that the operators are checking the composite samples for pH. Operators are required to check composite sample pH values prior to conducting the BOD analysis. These are not reportable pH values as they are only intended to be indicators of the sample pH that might need adjusted prior to analyzing. The City continues to submit the initial pH value of the composite samples as if it were the actual pH of the discharge from Mercer. Standard Methods requires pH to be analyzed "immediately" (within 15-minutes) to be considered a reportable value. I talked to Sean prior to the inspection about the possibility of them collecting samples and analyzing the discharges for pH themselves. During the inspection, Sean indicated that they have a portable pH probe that would meet the standard methods requirement for pH measurement. Ultimately, the facility needs to find the best location to get a representative sample of their discharge before it is commingled with their domestic sewage. Sean said he intends on evaluating their site to find an appropriate location for collecting a representative sample to measure pH of their discharges. Erik mentioned composite samplers can be setup to be flow paced when discharging and may be a better way of collecting representative samples of discharges during production. Mercer Wine should coordinate with the City of Prosser operation staff when they are producing and discharging for consistent and accurate reporting data.

We ended the tour in the barreling room. Wine barrels are cleaned without the use of chemicals. Updated Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manual and Solid Waste Control Plan were recently submitted. Ecology will review the O&M Manual and provide comments as needed. I reviewed the Solid Waste Control Plan and provided comments to Sean prior to our inspection and asked if he received my comments. He said he has it printed ready to start updating the plan. Since the inspection, he has submitted the updated Solid Waste Control Plan. We thanked Sean for his time and left the facility at 11:35 am.

Photos:



Lees tank – Natural Selection Farms pumps out



Crusher pad



Drains near crush pad



Drain under auger arm with screen



Production tank – high and low door for removing solids



Pressure washer for tanks

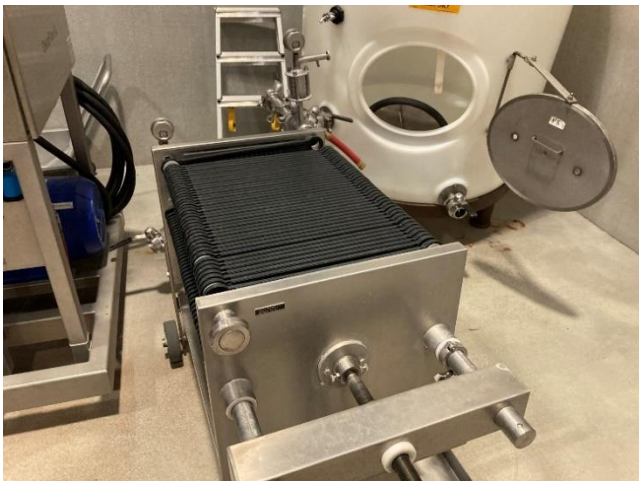


Plate and Frame Filtration Unit



Oenoflow XL new for filtering



Bottling (Hot water only) drain – indicated with star



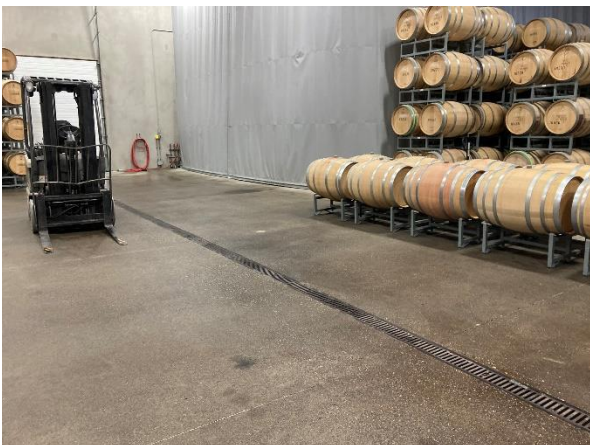
Onsite lift station to City of Prosser POTW



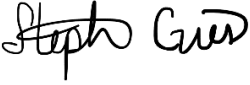

Stormwater Basin – visible process wastewater stain



Sampler



Barreling Room

Name(s) and Signatures of Inspector(s)	Agency/Office/Telephone	Date
Stephanie Giesin 	WA Dept. of Ecology, CRO, (509) 504-0172	1/10/2023
Name and Signature of Management QA Reviewer	Agency/Office/Telephone	Date
Erik Van Doren 	WA Dept. of Ecology, CRO, (509) 571-0934	1/10/2023

ANNOUNCED Inspection

INSTRUCTIONS**Section A: General Information**

Report Version: N for 1st version, C for Changed or amended, or D for Delete

NPDES Permit No.: Enter the facility's NPDES or State permit number.

Inspection Date: Insert the date entry was made into the facility. Use the month/day/year format (e.g., 06/30/04 = June 30, 2004).

Inspection Type: Use one of the codes listed below to describe the type of inspection:

A Performance Audit	L Enforcement Case Support	2 IU Sampling Inspection
B Compliance Biomonitoring	M Multimedia	3 IU Non-Sampling Inspection
C Compliance Evaluation (non-sampling)	P Pretreatment Compliance Inspection	4 IU Toxics Inspection
D Diagnostic	R Reconnaissance	5 IU Sampling Inspection with Pretreatment
E Corps of Engineers Inspection	S Compliance Sampling	6 IU Non-Sampling Inspection with pretreatment
F Pretreatment Follow-up	U IU Inspection with Pretreatment Audit	7 IU Toxics with Pretreatment
G Pretreatment Audit	X Toxics Inspection	
I Industrial User (IU) Inspection	Z Sludge	

Inspector Code: Use one of the codes listed below to describe the *lead agency* in the inspection:

C - Contractor or Other Inspectors (Specify in Remarks Columns)	N - NEIC Inspectors
E - Corps of Engineers	R - EPA Regional Inspector
J - Joint EPA/State Inspectors - EPA Lead	S - State Inspector
	T - Joint State/EPA Inspectors - State Lead

Facility Type: Use one of the choices below to describe the facility.

1 - Municipal. Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) with 1987 Standard Industrial Code (SIC) 4952.

2 - Industrial. Other than municipal, agricultural, and Federal facilities.

3 - Agricultural. Facilities classified with 1987 SIC 0111 to 0971.

4 - Federal. Facilities identified as Federal by the EPA Regional Office

Remarks: These columns are reserved for remarks.

Inspection Work Days.: Estimate the total work effort (to the nearest 0.1 work day), up to 99.9 days, that were used to complete the inspection. This estimate includes the accumulative effort of all participating inspectors; any effort for laboratory analyses, testing, travel time and preparation time. This estimate does not require detailed documentation.

Facility Evaluation Rating: Use information gathered during the inspection (regardless of inspection type) to evaluate the quality of the facility self-monitoring program. Grade the program using a scale of 1 to 5 with a score of 5 being used for very reliable self-monitoring programs, 3 being satisfactory, and 1 being used for very unreliable programs.

Biomonitoring Information. Enter D for static testing. Enter F for flow through testing. Enter N for no biomonitoring.

Quality Assurance Data Inspection. Enter Q if the inspection was conducted as follow-up on quality assurance sample results. Enter N otherwise.

Photos Taken: Yes or No

Samples Taken: Yes or No

Lead Ecology Inspector: Enter lead inspector's name

Section B: Facility Data

This section is self-explanatory except for: "Other Facility Data," which may include new information not in the permit or PCS (e.g., new outfalls, names of receiving waters, new ownership, and other updates to the record), e-mail addresses...; and "Ecology Staff On-Site", which may include staff names, titles, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses.

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

Check only those areas evaluated by marking the appropriate box. Use Section D and additional sheets as necessary.

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

Support the findings, as necessary, in a narrative report. Use the headings given on the report form (staffing, back-up power) as appropriate. Reference a list of attachments, such as completed checklists, photos, lab reports, etc. Use extra sheets as necessary.

LINKS AND INFORMATION:

“Informational Manual for Treatment Plant Operators”; February 2004; by the Department of Ecology
Publication Number 04-10-020:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0410020.html>

The manual was prepared to help wastewater treatment plant operators complete and submit their Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and other annual reports to the Department of Ecology. The manual is available in hard copy. To request a copy, contact the Department of Ecology, Publications Distribution Center at P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 or by Telephone: (360) 407-7472. Updates to the manual are included on the website version.

Ecology's Wastewater and Reuse website:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-quality/Reclaimed-water>

Ecology's Operator Certification website:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Wastewater-operator-certification>

Ecology's Laboratory Accreditation website:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Laboratory-Accreditation>

Ecology's Biosolids website:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Organic-materials/Biosolids>

Ecology's Operator Outreach: Andy O'Neil (509) 710-3676; andy.oneill@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology's Municipal Compliance Specialist (Central Regional Office): Lindsay Hunsperger (509) 208-1285;

lindsay.hunsperger@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology's Wastewater Operator Certification Coordinator: Poppy Carre (360) 407-6449; 1-800-633-6193 (within the state)

Poppy.carre@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology's Regional Biosolids Program Coordinator: Ruby Irving-Hewey (509) 379-4737: ruby.irving-hewey@ecy.wa.gov

Reporting Spills/Overflows/Upsets/Bypasses/Loss of Disinfection IMMEDIATELY:

Regional Ecology Office number for spill reporting: (509) 575-2490 to report a spill

LINKS AND INFORMATION:

Ecology's Wastewater and Reuse website:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-quality/Reclaimed-water>