State of Washington Department of Ecology

INSPECTION REPORT

Northwest Regional Office
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98113
ph: (206) 594-0000
(rev. 5-28-21)

Section A: General Information

Report Version	PERMIT #	mm/dd/yy	Inspection Type	Inspector Code	Facility Type
☒ New ☐ Changed ☐ Deleted	**ST0045505**	7/27/23	**IU**	**S**	☒ 2 Industrial

Remarks

Inspection work days	Facility Self-Monitoring	Photos Taken	Samples Taken	BI	QA
0.5	**5**	☒ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☒ No	**N**	**N**

Lead Ecology Inspector(s)
Vu Tran

Section B: Facility Data

Name, Location, and Phone of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Active Berry Packers LLC 204 S 1st Street Lynden, WA 98264	9:18 AM	11/1/2011
	Exit Time 10:09 AM	Permit Expiration Date 10/18/2016

Name(s)/Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s)	Ecology Staff On-Site
Duncan Sterk, Plant Manager	Vu Tran

Name, Address, Title, Phone, and Fax Number of Responsible Official	Other Facility Data
Frank DeVries (Manager) 210 Nooksack Ave Suite 101 Lynden, WA 98264 Phone: 360-354-1134 FAX: 360-354-0593 Contacted? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**	

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)

☒	Permit	☐	Flow Measurement	☒	Operations & Maintenance	☐	CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)
☒	Records/Reports	☐	Effluent ○ Receiving Water	☒	Sludge Handling/Disposal	☐	Pollution Prevention
☒	Facility Site Review	☐	Compliance Schedules	☒	Pretreatment	☐	Multimedia
☒	Self-Monitoring Program	☐	Laboratory	☐	Storm Water	☐	Other

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

I. INTRODUCTION

Department of Ecology (Ecology) inspector, Vu Tran, conducted an inspection at Active Berry Packers LLC (Active Berry). The purpose of the visit was to conduct a routine inspection in preparation for a State Waste Discharge permit (SWDP) renewal. The inspection was announced and coordinated with Active Berry representative Marilyn DeVries.

Active Berry primarily receives and processes raspberries and blueberries. The facility is active during berry season in early July and runs through September. Shipments of berries arrive on site from local farms and are transferred to a conveyor belt for processing. Berries are sanitized with a dilute chlorine dioxide mixture (3 to 4 ppm) before a freshwater rinse. The berries are inspected manually and via automation for deficiencies and sorted based on industry quality checks. Berries that pass the inspection check are flash frozen and sent for packing and distribution. Berries that do not pass inspections are sold to outside businesses that process the berries into various consumer products.

Process wastewater is generated during the sanitizing wash, rinse wash, equipment wash, and facility cleaning operations.

II. INSPECTION

Mr. Tran arrived on site at 9:18 am on 7/27/23 and was met by Plant Manager Duncan Sterk acting as the representative for

Active Berry. We convened at a nearby office where Mr. Tran confirmed that a copy of the permit was available for review. Mr. Sterk informed Mr. Tran that processing activities in the plant remain the same and he does not foresee the facility requiring a change in discharge flow allocation for the 5 years under the upcoming SWDP permit coverage. Three chemicals are used in the facility. Chlorine dioxide is used for fruit cleaning while FRM 63 and San 175 are both used for equipment cleaning. Mr. Tran relayed that Active Berry will need to submit a Spill Plan, Solid Waste Plan, and Slug Discharge Plan as part of the renewal permit conditions.

Mr. Sterk conducted a tour of the facility for Mr. Tran. The outdoor flat sanitizing area is where flats (berry containers) are sanitized and washed (Photo 1). There is a catch basin in the outdoor wash area that flows to the pit (Photo 2). The drain is able to capture all process wastewater from the washing operation but also captures stormwater that falls into the drainage area of the catch basin.

The entrance/exits into the processing floor has sanitizing soap/solution on the floor to clean shoes as people come and go. Water usage in the berry processing area consists of initial sanitizing with dilute chlorine dioxide and a freshwater rinse. Water from the berry cleaning operation drain directly onto the processing floor and into floor drains (Photo 3, 4, 5). The floor drains flow to a facility sump (Photo 6) and is then pumped to a collection tank located in a concrete pit before hydrosieve treatment and discharge to the sanitary sewer. Equipment is washed and sanitized at the end of the work shift. Wash water drains into the floor drains and into the hydrosieve collection tank. The pit (Photo 7) is located outside the building. All drains on the property flow to the pit where it enters into a collection tank. Once the collection tank reaches a preset level, a float triggers a pump to pump water to the hydrosieve for solids filtration. The hydrosieve effluent discharges directly into the sanitary sewer. The sampling point for permit compliance is located at the discharge piping of the hydrosieve.

Solid waste from fruit processing activities is collected at different points in the process system. Berries that do not fit the quality criteria for flash freeze are separated and collected in a container to be sold to outside businesses for further processing (Photo 8). Berries that fall to the floor (Photo 9) or are deemed unusable are collected and stored outdoors (Photo 10) until they are either disposed of or sold as a waste byproduct to an outside business.

Chemicals and a spill kit are stored in a room adjacent to the main processing area. The chemicals and spill kit are located inside of a cage on top of a secondary containment platform.

III. CONCLUSION

Active Berry is a well run and clean facility. All process wastewater is accounted for and undergoes pretreatment before entering the sanitary sewer. Solid waste is collected and disposed of or sold offsite. Chemicals are stored on secondary containment.

Name(s) and Signatures of Inspector(s)	Agency/Office/Telephone	Date
Vu Tran Vu Tran	WA Dept. of Ecology, NWRO, (425) 395-2456	7/28/23
Name and Signature of Management QA Reviewer	**Agency/Office/Telephone**	**Date**
Monika Kannadaguli Monika Kannadaguli	WA Dept. of Ecology, NWRO, (206) 594-0144	08/22/2023

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 of 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.

Inspection Photos

Photo 1

Date: 7/27/23
Taken by: Vu Tran
Witness: Duncan Sterk

Description: Berry byproducts collection container from inspection conveyor belt.

Photo 2

Date: 7/27/23
Taken by: Vu Tran
Witness: Duncan Sterk

Description: Chemical Storage Area with Spill Kit. Chemicals are stored on secondary containment.

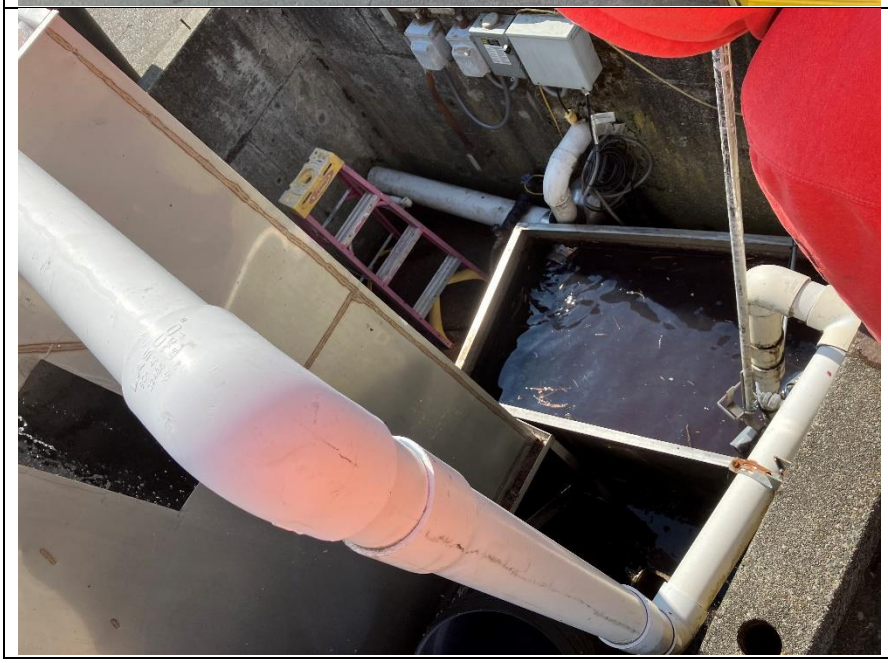
	Photo 3 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Closed Loop Cooling System
	Photo 4 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Collection Tank Prior to Hydroseive Treatment.

Photo 5

Date: 7/27/23
Taken by: Vu Tran
Witness: Duncan Sterk

Description: Final discharge to sanitary sewer and sampling point. The collection tank seen in the lower right corner of Photo 5 has a float that turns on a pump to pump wastewater to the hydrosieve.

Photo 6

Date: 7/27/23
Taken by: Vu Tran
Witness: Duncan Sterk

Description: Drain leading to processing sump.

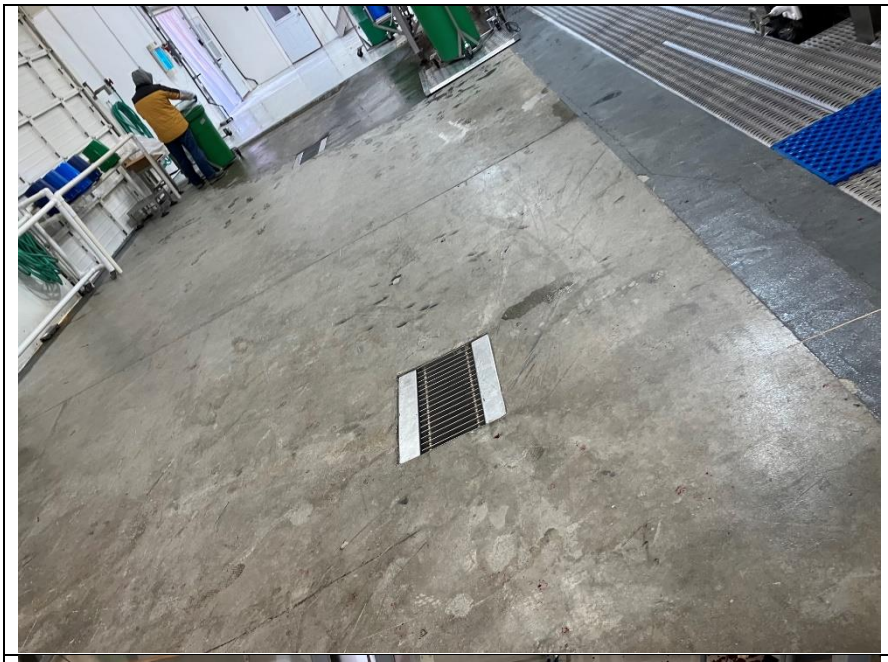
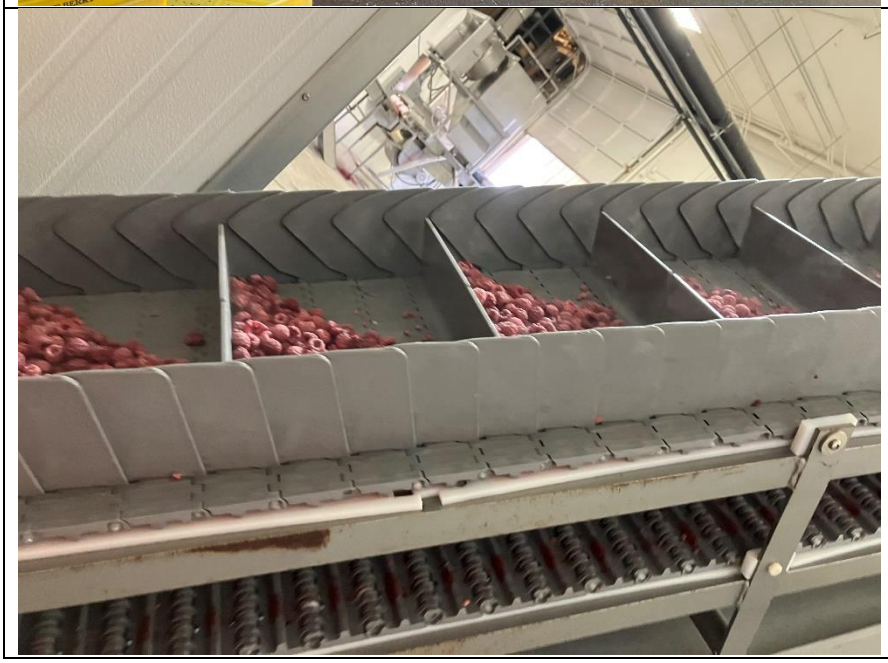
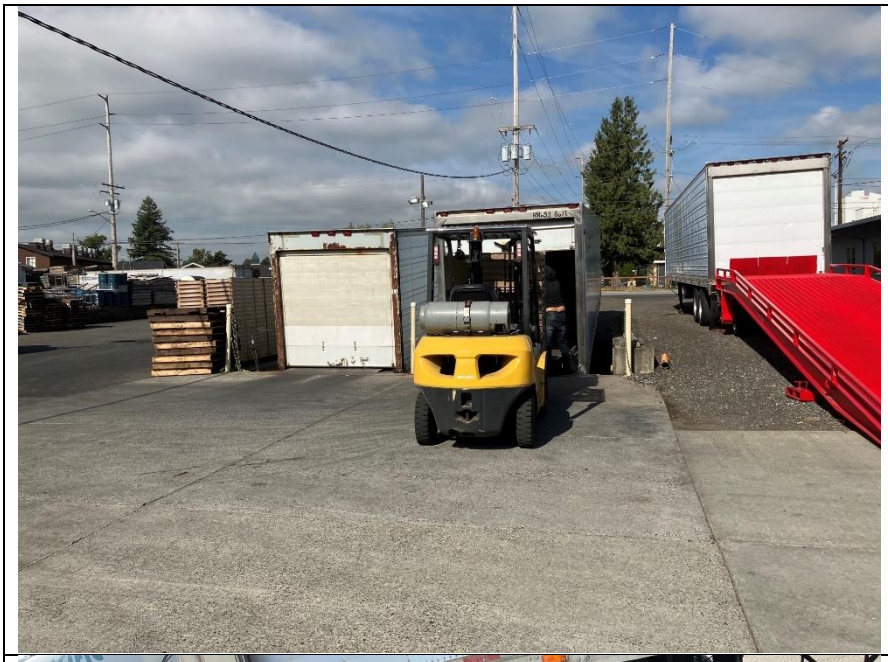
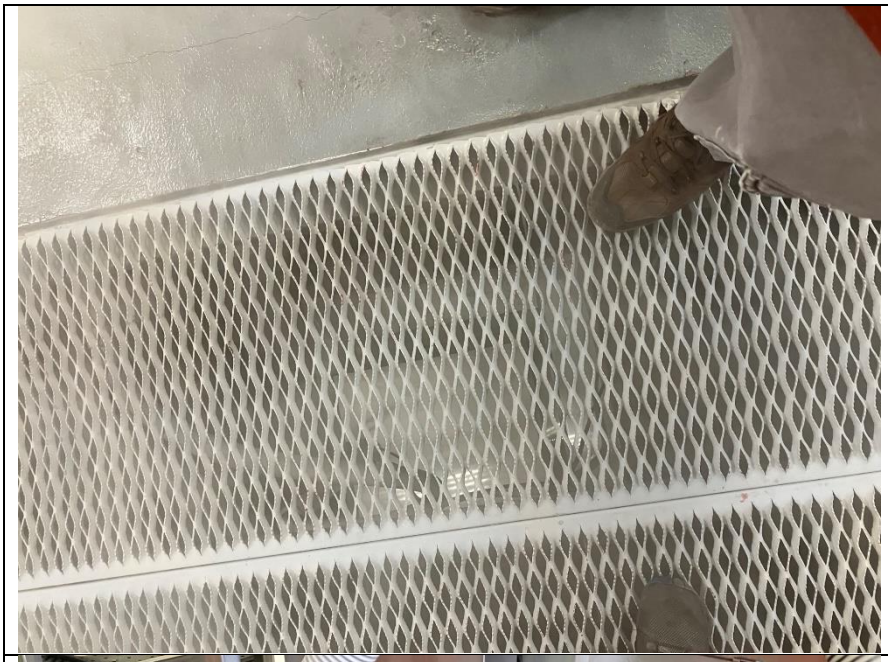
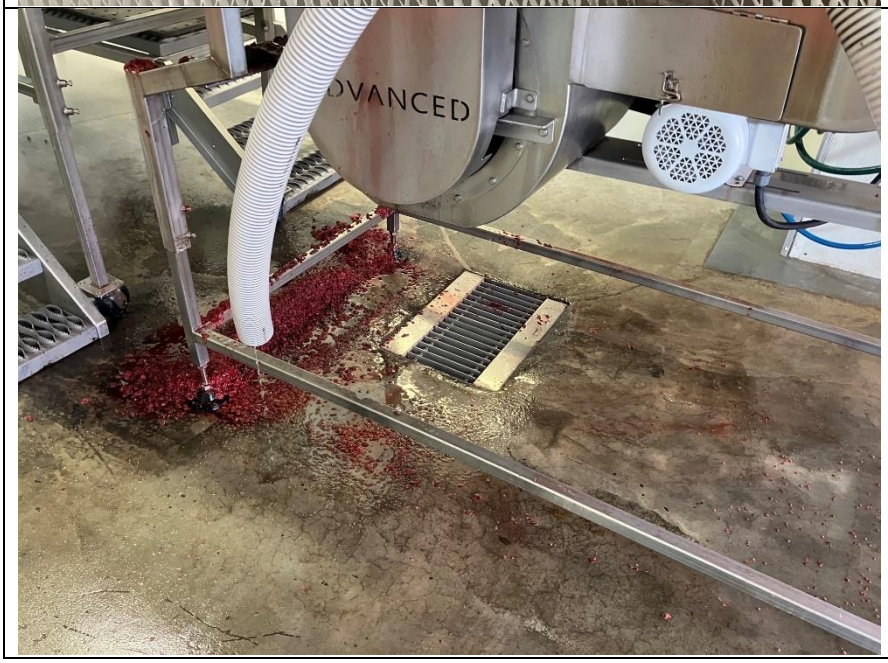
	Photo 7 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Floor drain in processing area.
	Photo 8 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Floor drains in the processing area.

	Photo 9 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Hydrosieve located inside concrete pit.
	Photo 10 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Outdoor catch basin.

	Photo 11 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Flat sanitizing area.
	Photo 12 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Raspberries getting flash frozen.

	Photo 13 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Shipping and Receiving Area.
	Photo 14 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Solid Waste Temporary Storage Area.

	Photo 15 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Sump located underneath the grating. The grating runs along the floor of the processing floor and collect wash water from berry processing operation.
	Photo 16 Date: 7/27/23 Taken by: Vu Tran Witness: Duncan Sterk Description: Waste berries from automatic sorter. Solids that enter the floor drain flow to the concrete pit located outside the facility where a hydrosieve collects solid byproducts before discharge to the sanitary sewer.