

# Permit Compliance Inspection Report

## Water Quality Program

### Central Region Office

#### A. General Information

Facility Name & Address: Desert Wind Holdings LLC dba Desert Wind Winery  
2258 Wine County Rd  
Prosser, WA 99350

Permit Type: State Waste Discharge IP Only Permit Number: ST0009272

Permit Effective Dates: 1/01/2021 to 12/31/2025

Date of Inspection: 3/20/2024

Inspection Duration: 12:30 PM PM to 1:17 PM

Discharge to: Prosser POTW

Type of Inspection: Announced  
Compliance Inspection - Without Sampling

Photographs Taken: ☒ Yes ☐ No Samples Taken: ☐ Yes ☒ No

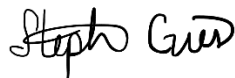
#### B. Personnel Information

Ecology Representative(s): Stephanie Giesin – Permit Developer/Permit Manager  
Andrea Jedel – Industrial Unit Supervisor

Facility Representative(s): Ben Hieb  
Enologist  
Phone (509) 591-5284 Email: [bhieb@desertwindwinery.com](mailto:bhieb@desertwindwinery.com)

Responsible Party/Official: Josh Lawrence  
13000 Road D SW  
Royal City, WA 99357  
Phone (509) 346-2585 Email: [josh@lawrenceenterprises.com](mailto:josh@lawrenceenterprises.com)

Inspector Signature(s)



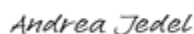
3/21/2024

Stephanie Giesin

Date

Permit Developer/Permit Manager

Management QA Reviewer Signature



3/22/24

Andrea Jedel

Date

Industrial Unit Supervisor

## C. Facility Description & Background

The purpose of this inspection was to introduce Andrea, our new Industrial Unit Supervisor to one of our permitted industrial facilities in the Central Region and get a general walk-through of the winery. Additionally, I (Stephanie Giesin) wanted to get an update and discuss where the facility is with their Operations and Maintenance Manual (O&M), Solid Waste, Spill Control, and Slug discharge plans that were due January 1, 2022. The last inspection for this facility was on March 15, 2023.

## D. Inspection Narrative & Observations

### 1. Site Walkthrough

We arrived on site at 12:30 PM. I called Ben and told him we were out by the crush pad, and he met Andrea and I outside. We did quick introductions for Andrea and Ben.

Ben took us inside to the barrel room. We saw hoses connecting winery tank to barrels and Ben said they were transferring wine from the barrels into the tanks and back into the barrels. Andrea asked how they filter their wine before it is bottled. Ben said they have ATP, a mobile filtration system, come in to filter their wine before bottling.

Ben then took us outside to the crush pad and explained they have two wine presses, 8 ton and 25 ton, to press and process wine. Solid waste is disposed of offsite at a landfill. Must pumps wine from the presses outside into the tanks inside the building for further processing and barreling.

From the crush pad, we walked over to the lagoon. I asked Ben when they first started discharging to the lagoon. He said they started discharging to the lagoon a few months ago. They installed a new liner and a few pipes before they discharged to the lagoon. I said I would need to review the permit file to see if we had engineering documents on the lagoon because we would need engineering document that describe the lagoon's design capacity. The lagoon was abandoned and has not been used by the facility for processing wastewater since the permit was transferred from the previous owner in 2021. The current permit allows the facility to discharge the Prosser Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) only. The winery is not permitted for a ground water discharge (discharging to the lagoon). I asked if the wastewater from the lagoon was discharged to the POTW. Ben said he was not sure.

Before we went inside to discuss the renewal application, Ben showed us where the facility gets samples from. The City obtains samples from their effluent sampler that we did not observe during the inspection.

We went inside the tasting room to discuss the O&M and other plans that are overdue as well as their permit renewal application. I brought a hard copy for the facility to complete or use as reference. Ben said he has worked on the required plans, but stopped since wastewater has been discharged to the lagoon. I told him he should send over what he has for our review, and I could provide comments as needed. Their renewal permit application is due December 31, 2024. I said I could send their previous application that was completed for their current permit cycle, for their reference to help them complete the renewal application. I said I could send him a PDF of the application to complete it digitally if desired. I said I would also email an application for industrial discharge to ground for their discharge to the lagoon. I told Ben if he has any questions about either application to let me know.

Lastly, I went over Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). The facility has several DMRs that have not been submitted since December 2023. The last DMR that was submitted is from their October 2023 monitoring period. Ben has mentioned they have had problems with the City of Prosser conducting sampling 2 times as week as required by the permit. I told him he should submit his DMRs on time even if they do not have all the information. After a DMR has been submitted, he can go back in and provide any data that was missing. We do not receive notifications for DMRs and violations for DMR will only populate for DMR that have been submitted. Ben said the DMR data has only been going to their bookkeeper, while in the past the information went to both their bookkeeper and Ben. I told Ben it would be advantageous to have a conversation with the staff at the City of Prosser about necessary sampling requirements and receiving their sampling data.

We thanked Ben for his time and left the facility at 1:17 PM.

## E. Violations Observed and Recommendations for Compliance

The facility is only permitted to discharge their wastewater to the POTW. We will need to review an engineering report for their lagoon. After the inspection, I sent Ben an email that included their previous completed application, digital PDF version of the industrial discharge to POTW application and digital PDF of the industrial to groundwater application for their wastewater discharge to the lagoon. Several submittals are still required that include O&M manual, Solid Waste Control Plan, Spill Plan, and Slug Discharge Control Plan that were due January 1, 2022.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this inspection report, please contact Stephanie Giesin at 509-504-0172 or [stephanie.giesin@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:stephanie.giesin@ecy.wa.gov).

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**Photo 1 [IMG\_0357]**  
**Description:** wine transferred from barrel to tank then back to barrel



**Photo 2 [IMG\_0358]**  
**Description:** *Crush Pad*



**Photo 3 [IMG\_0359]**  
**Description:** *8-ton wine press next to crush pad*



**Photo 4 [IMG\_0360]**  
**Description:** *Auger arm on crush pad and 25-ton wine press*





**Photo 5 [IMG\_0361]**  
**Description: *wastewater lagoon***



**Photo 6 [IMG\_0362]**  
**Description: *Another photo of wastewater lagoon***



**Photo 7 [IMG\_0363]**  
**Description: *facility sampling location***