

Permit Compliance Inspection Report

Water Quality Program

Central Region Office

A. General Information

Facility Name & Address: Milne Fruit Products Prosser
804 Bennett Ave
Prosser, WA 99350

Permit Type: Individual NPDES Permit & State Waste Discharge Permit Number: WA0052272

Permit Effective Dates: 10/1/2010 to 9/30/2015 (Administratively Extended)

Date of Inspection: 6/18/2024

Inspection Duration: 10:59 AM to 12:06 PM

Discharge to: Surface Water and Prosser Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)

Receiving Water: Yakima River

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 (Lead Inspector)
Keith Primm – Lead Permit Writer (Co-inspector)

Facility Representative(s): Bruce DeJong – Plant Engineer
Phone: 509-786-2611 Email: bdejong@milnefruit.com

Responsible Party/Official: Michael Sorenson – President & General Manager
PO Box 111
Prosser, WA 99350-0111
Phone: N/A Email: N/A

Inspector Signature

Management QA Reviewer Signature



6/21/2024

Stephanie Giesin (Author) Date
Permit Developer/ Permit Manager

Andrea Jedel (signed electronically) 07/05/2024

Andrea Jedel Date
Industrial Unit Supervisor

C. Facility Description & Background

The purpose of this inspection was a routine compliance inspection and to check in with the facility about operations. The permit was administratively extended on October 1, 2015. The last inspection for this facility was on January 1, 2023. Ecology is working on rewriting the facility's permit and the offsite puree facility will soon cease operations. The puree facility will be leased to a winery that will be discharging to the Prosser POTW. I (Stephanie Giesin) wanted to get to get a contact for the winery to discuss permit application and their plans of operation.

D. Inspection Narrative & Observations

Keith and I arrived on site at 10:59 am and signed in at the front office. We briefly chatted in the office and did introductions for Keith and Bruce. I asked Bruce if the facility has an updated industrial user contract (IUC) with the City of Prosser since its last update in 2018. Bruce said that IUC was the most recent.

1. Site Walkthrough

Bruce walked us outside to the receiving area where all the fruit comes into the plant. All drains outside go to the wastewater pit before treatment then discharge to the POTW. Stormwater in the processing area outside also goes to the wastewater pit before being discharged to the POTW.

Bruce said the facility's flow has increased with apple production and the need to rinse their membrane filters. I mentioned they have had a few BOD violations that are outside their updated limits from the City of Prosser.

Bruce said the puree facility has about two to three more weeks of production before operations cease. The winery that plans to lease the building will be using it for storage at first. However, later they will be processing wine and discharging their wastewater to the POTW. I asked Bruce if he could provide a contact name for the winery so I could discuss the facility plans and permit application.

Bruce showed us the clean water pit, which is from boiler blowdown water. There are few pollutants in this wastewater and very little dilution of the wastewater is necessary. This water goes to the POTW with no treatment. Cooling water is discharged to the Yakima River not exceeding their permit limit of 29,000 gallons daily.

All wastewater from the facility goes to the wastewater pit. The wastewater goes through a screen before treatment. The wastewater then goes through the clarifier and then adjusted for pH as necessary. If the wastewater is not within limits for pH the wastewater goes back to the pit for further treatment. Bruce said the polymer system they have is no longer functional due to several power outages the facility has experienced recently. The flow meter next to the clarifier is currently not functional. The control panel for the facility is in this room with the clarifier.

The tower blowdown water is diluted 2:1 that is discharged to the Yakima River. Bruce said during grape season they do not discharge a lot of wastewater to the river due to the increase in pH.

Bruce showed us the lift station and I asked if he could show us the City sampler. It is located at the corner of the facility on Bennett Ave.

We returned to the office and Bruce said the winery contact name was Jerry Maas from Coventry Vale and he would send an email with my information for Jerry. We thanked Bruce for his time and signed out of the office at 12:07 pm.

E. Facility Compliance Follow Up

Please provide a formal letter to Ecology when the puree facility has ceased operation and is no longer discharging wastewater to the POTW. You can email me this letter at stephanie.giesin@ecy.wa.gov. No further wastewater discharges from this facility will be allowed without prior approval from Ecology.

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.

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Photo 1 [IMG_0494]
Description: Fruit receiving area



Photo 2 [IMG_0495]
Description: Drains in fruit receiving area – go to wastewater pit



Photo 3 [IMG_0496]
Description: Wastewater pit with screened solids bin above



Photo 4 [IMG_0497]
Description: Clarifier



Photo 5 [IMG_0498]
Description: Flow meter next to clarifier – not functional



Photo 6 [IMG_0499]
Description: Facility Control panel



Photo 7 [IMG_0500]
Description: Wastewater pit and solids bin from screening



Photo 8 [IMG_0501]
Description: Lift station