



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Central Region Office

1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

March 7, 2025

Steven Thomas
Snow & Sons Produce Co
521 Wellner Road
Outlook, WA 98938-9743

Sent via email only: thomas@snowflight.net

RE: Notice of Temporary State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST0501367 for Snow & Sons Produce Co, Effective February 18, 2025

Dear Steven Thomas:

Your application for state waste discharge permit for Snow & Sons Produce Co was received by this office on August 30, 2023. It was reviewed and accepted as complete on December 19, 2024. A Public Notice of Application was published on January 7, 2025 and January 14, 2025, in the Yakima Herald Republic and the public comment period ended on February 14, 2025, with one comment being received.

Public comment by Rachelle Schelbrack (received January 19, 2025):

Disposing of orchard and agricultural waste is a KNOWN contaminate of PFAS and many other carcinogenic chemicals. Which is something that us in this Valley know all too well. Allowing a business to dump their toxic waste into our groundwater should be a crime and not something someone pays a fee to do. This is the utmost disrespect for the land and the people of this valley, the county should be ashamed for approving this and snow and sons needs to come up with a new way to get rid of its toxic sludge instead of pouring it into my babies drinking water. This is an absolute disgrace and the people who made this decision fortunately are public, we will not stay quiet and you will see what Activism means if this waste dump goes through. Sending this to KIMA now!

Ecology's response to comment is as follows:

This temporary state waste discharge permit coverage is being issued as a first step in the State Waste Discharge permitting process toward requiring water quality changes at the Snow & Sons facility to better treat and discharge industrial process wastewater.

State Waste Discharge permitting will include engineering and construction of a lined lagoon to improve treatment and evaporation of the industrial wastewater. Irrigation and crop management plans will be required for the existing small sprayfield, including soil monitoring and potentially groundwater monitoring, depending on the feasibility. Monitoring of the wastewater for the lagoon influent and effluent to the sprayfield will be required.

Pollutants expected for food processing wastewater and stormwater are present in monitoring results that were included with the permit application. These pollutants are at concentrations that the lagoon and sprayfield can treat to a level that mitigates negative environmental impacts.

Ecology will be issuing a final permit in accordance with the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-216 State Waste Discharge Permit Program and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 90.48 Water Pollution Control. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-216-070 explains what satisfies the requirement for filing a permit application. WAC 173-216-090 requires publication of public notice followed by a 30 day comment period. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 90.48.200 states, "In the event of failure of the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to act upon an application within 60 days after it has been filed, the applicant shall be deemed to have received a temporary permit. Said permit shall authorize the applicant to discharge wastes into waters of the state as requested in its application only until such time as Ecology shall have taken action upon said application.

Therefore, as RCW 90.48.200 and WAC 173-216-090 provide, your new Temporary Permit became effective February 18, 2025, the business day following completion of the public notice comment period. It will remain in force for up to five years or until further notice by the Department, whichever occurs first.

Ecology will undertake writing a full permit as time allows. At that time, we will contact you to discuss any changes in operation and do a site visit.

Your temporary permit consists of the permit application and all appendices submitted with it. Compliance with the application and the appendices will constitute compliance with the temporary permit.



This authorization does not allow you to discharge pollutants not specified in your application or appendices, or in quantities exceeding those specified. You are also required to comply with all water pollution laws and regulations.

Renewal Application

A new application must be submitted before February 17, 2029, if discharge of wastewater is to continue after the five year term of this temporary permit. Ecology may issue a new permit for this discharge at any time. Ecology may request an updated application if a substantial amount of time passes before acting on your original application.

Permit Fees

Under the Model Toxic Control Act, codified as RCW 90.48.465, Ecology is required to recover the cost of the Water Quality Permit Program. Ecology has adopted a regulation (Chapter 173-224 WAC) establishing annual permit fees for all municipal/domestic and industrial wastewater discharge permit holders. Your Temporary Permit is subject to this fee. Permit fee billing will be in a separate mailing from Ecology WQ Fee Unit.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact Matthew Durkee at (509) 379-4384 or matthew.durkee@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Damon G. Roberts

Section Manager

Water Quality Program

e-cc: Scott Thomas, Snow & Sons Produce Co., office@snowflight.net
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