

March 10, 2025

Matt Durkee
Department of Ecology Central Regional Office
1250 West Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

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Received via: matthew.durkee@ecy.wa.gov

Re: Outfall 2 bypass of equalization tank on 3/7/2025. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit # WA0052078

Mr. Durkee:

On March 7th, the Sunnyside plant had to bypass its equalization tank due to high level. Beginning around 6:10 AM the equalization tank level began to rise due to excess equipment washing. The cheese and whey powder production lines did back-to-back washes. By 12:15 PM the decision was made by plant management to do a partial bypass. The bypass valve was opened part way at the request by the Port of Sunnyside. The bypass lasted from 12:15 PM to 3:00 PM. The bypass was of course coordinated with the Port of Sunnyside before it took place, and they will use their ultrasonic flow meter in the flume for the daily volume. The production plant is working on staggering the washes and spreading them out better. The goal is to avoid the situation from happening again but they also recognize the increased volume that is discharged is making it challenging. The environmental department is looking at long term upgrades such as a second equalization tank and increasing the outlet pipe from 6 to 8 inches. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me. My email is chris.babcock@darigold.com and my mobile phone number is (509) 854-4379.

Best Regards,



Chris Babcock
Darigold