DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Agrium, Kennewick Fertilizer Operations

Draft documents are available at the following locations:

Kennewick Public Library
1620 S Union Street
Kennewick, WA

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/industrial/UIPermit/DraftPermits.aspx

Dept. of Ecology
Industrial Section
300 Desmond Dr. SE
Lacey, WA

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-7668 or visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Comment period: August 18 - September 19, 2016

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the draft modifications to Agrium's Kennewick Facility National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System wastewater permit. We will accept comments only on the changes, not the entire permit.

Facility information

Located at 227515 Bowles Road in Kennewick, WA, this facility produces about 18,000 tons of product nitric acid and about 170,000 tons of liquid nitrogen fertilizer solutions each year. The facility also has the ability to produce granular ammonium nitrate fertilizer.

The Kennewick Facility uses water from, and discharges back to, the Columbia River. Approximately 6% of the water is used in the fertilizer manufacturing process and for refrigeration. About 94% is used as non-contact cooling water.

Agrium also recovers contaminated groundwater containing fertilizer components from seven onsite wells. The recovered groundwater is used to irrigate offsite croplands.

Changes to the permit

Spills of product and raw materials in the process area can cause nitrogen and ammonia contamination in stormwater. This contaminated stormwater is currently mixed with process recycle water and reused in the fertilizer production process. During winter months, Agrium often has more stormwater and process recycle water than they can reuse . In an effort to manage the excess wastewater, Agrium submitted a request to modify their permit, allowing discharge of the contaminated

Send written comments to:

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stormwater to the Columbia River. Proposed changes to the permit include:

- Allowing the storage and discharge of low-nitrate stormwater to the Columbia River, keeping the stormwater separate from high-nitrate process recycled water.
- Requiring weekly stormwater inspections to look for spills, spills to be cleaned up, and sampling of stormwater.
- Setting action levels for stormwater that, if exceeded, require additional follow up.
- Updating the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to include requirements for new stormwater best management practices.
- Replacing the stormwater sediment control pond analysis plan with monitoring requirements.

More information on these changes is available in the permit's Supplemental Fact Sheet.

You may request a public hearing to ask questions and submit verbal comments. To request a hearing, contact:

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If we determine there is significant public interest during this comment period to hold a hearing, we will extend the comment period to allow at least 30 days notice of the hearing and publish the time, date and location.

Commenting

Effective comments tell us if we correctly applied current laws, rules and regulations to this action. They:

- Are specific. Tell us what your concern is and how you think the modifications to this wastewater permit should change.
- Are focused. Refer to the conditions and requirements in the permit.
- Relate to the potential impacts to water quality and river sediment from this action. Where possible, describe the state or federal rules and regulations you think have not been applied correctly.

When the comment period ends, we will review all comments received and make appropriate changes before finalizing the documents.