

Agrium US Inc.

Comment opportunity

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on three proposed Agrium US Inc. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permits.

We will accept comments by mail, fax or e-mail, September 25 – October 27, 2015.

Kennewick Facility

Agrium’s Kennewick facility:

- Is located at 227515 E Bowles Road.
- Produces about 975 tons of nitric acid and 3,500 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer solutions each day.
- Discharges wastewater to the Columbia River. A NPDES permit is required for this to happen. 96% of the wastewater is non-contact cooling water, meaning it’s used only for cooling purposes and does not come in contact with pollutants.
- Sends nitrate contaminated groundwater to the Finley facility for use as in watering croplands, allowed under State Waste Discharge Permit ST-9164.

Ecology issued the Kennewick facility’s current permit on January 5, 2008. Changes to the permit include requirements to submit:

- Water quality monitoring reports electronically.
- A cooling water intake structure information and compliance report.
- A study evaluating whether management of non-contact cooling water meets all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment.

Finley Facility

Agrium’s Finley facility:

- Is located at 231610 E Game Farm Rd.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Comment period

September 25 –
October 27, 2015

Read the proposed permit at these locations:

Mid-Columbia Library
Kennewick Branch
1620 S Union
Kennewick, WA 98338

Dept of Ecology
300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Online:

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

Send written comments to:

Greg Gould
Dept of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
greg.gould@ecy.wa.gov
Fax: (360) 407-6102

Special accommodations

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

- Stores and transfers ammonia and fertilizer products to the Kennewick facility.
- Uses the nitrate contaminated groundwater from the Finley and Kennewick facilities to water approximately 160 acres of Agrium owned cropland next to the Finley facility.

Ecology issued the Finley facility's current permit on September 15, 2006. The major change to the permit is including the land application requirements of State Waste Discharge Permit ST-9164 in the NPDES permit.

Hedges Facility

Agrium's Hedges facility:

- Is located at 227108 E Hedges Road.
- Pumps groundwater for use in basic sanitary needs at the neighboring Simplot property.
- Currently has no manufacturing or other activities taking place.

Ecology issued the Hedges facility's current permit on August 24, 2006. Major changes to the permit include reduced monitoring and reporting requirements, and removing wastewater discharge limits while the facility is idle. The proposed permit includes limits, increased monitoring, and other requirements should Agrium restart this facility.

You can find more information on the proposed changes in each permit's fact sheet.

A NPDES permit is normally issued every five years. It:

- Sets limits on the kinds, amounts and concentrations of pollutants a facility may release.
- Requires a facility to measure, test and report its pollutants.
- Prescribes "best management practices."
- Sets other legal conditions necessary to discharge wastewater

Effective comments:

- Tell us if Ecology's proposed action correctly applies current federal and state laws, rules and regulations.
- Are specific. Tell us what your concern is and how you think the permit should change to address the concern.
- Are focused. Refer to limits, conditions and requirements.

You may request a public hearing to ask questions and submit verbal comments. To request a hearing, contact Angela Fritz, Industrial Section, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600, angela.fritz@ecy.wa.gov. If we determine there is significant public interest to hold a hearing, we will allow at least 30 days notice of the hearing and publish the time, date, and location. When the comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments received on the modifications and make appropriate changes before issuing the modified permit.

