

State of Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

Generic Permit

For

Discharges From

Fresh Citrus Fruit Packinghouses

To Percolation Ponds

This permit is issued under the provisions of Section 403.087, Florida Statutes, and applicable rules of the Florida Administrative Code. This permit does not constitute authorization to discharge to waters of the state under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Until this permit expires, is terminated, modified or revoked, permittees that have properly obtained coverage under this permit are authorized to construct and operate facilities and discharge to ground waters of the state in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

Part I Definitions

1. "Cull fruit" means citrus fruit that are removed from the packaging process because of damage or other reasons that make the citrus fruit unsuitable for packaging.
2. "Existing fresh citrus fruit packinghouse" or "existing facility" means a packinghouse which was in operation on or before May 10, 2005.
3. "Fresh citrus fruit packinghouse" or "facility" means a facility whose primary purpose is to wash, disinfect, sort, and package fresh citrus fruit and is assigned Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 0723.
4. "Land application site" means an area of land used for treatment and disposal of wash water and the disposal of solids.
5. "New fresh citrus fruit packinghouse" or "new facility" means a packinghouse which was constructed or placed into operation after May 10, 2005, or to an existing facility to which a substantial modification was made after May 10, 2005.
6. "Operating season" is the period of operation for citrus packinghouse facilities.
7. "Percolation pond" means an impoundment, either above or below the natural land surface, which is designed to percolate wash water to the surficial aquifer.
8. "Private drinking water supply well" means a well serving private or multifamily water systems as defined in Rule 62-532.200, F.A.C.
9. "Public drinking water supply well" means a well serving a public water system as defined in Rule 62-532.200, F.A.C.
10. "Solids" means leaves, twigs and other objects.
11. "Wash water" means the water used to wash, disinfect, and apply a protective wax to fresh citrus fruit before packaging.

Part II Operational Requirements for New and Existing Facilities

A. Prohibitions

1. No discharge of wastes or wastewater other than wash water generated by the operations defined as fresh citrus fruit packinghouses in Part I.3 of this permit shall be disposed of in percolation ponds authorized by this permit. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, stormwater, sanitary wastewater generated by employees of the facility, wastewater generated by washing or maintaining mobile equipment, or wastewater generated by ancillary operations.
2. Overflow or surface water discharge from any land application site to surface waters of the state is not authorized by this permit.

B. Solids Management

1. The screening and/or sedimentation system shall be designed and operated to filter out leaves, twigs, and other solids sufficient to maintain the designed permeability of the percolation pond.
2. The permittee shall dispose of solids from the screening or sedimentation systems with cull fruit in an approved landfill or solid waste facility, or to a land application site separate from the wash water disposal site. Such land

application site shall be operated in accordance with an appropriate BMP plan for activities conducted at the site.

3. Culled fruit shall be managed in such a manner that no contact stormwater shall be produced or discharged to the disposal system or waters of the State.

C. Maintenance

1. Routine maintenance of all pipes, pumps, valves, filtration systems, and other distribution equipment shall be performed as specified in the equipment operation and maintenance manuals provided by the manufacturer.
2. The collection sewer and sump shall be designed and operated to prevent overflows.
3. Above-grade dikes shall be grassed and regularly mowed. Dikes shall be inspected regularly for evidence of erosion, or seepage, and repaired by qualified individuals as appropriate.

D. Effluent Monitoring Requirements

1. During the period beginning upon placing the wastewater system into operation or upon the effective date of coverage, whichever occurs later, and lasting through the expiration date of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge process wastewater to percolation ponds. Quarterly effluent samples shall be collected at a minimum of 60 days apart for the following parameters:
 - a. Flow (effluent only)
 - b. pH
 - c. Oil and Grease (effluent only)
 - d. Total Suspended Solids
 - e. Turbidity (monitoring wells only)
 - f. Chlorides
 - g. Sodium
 - h. Total Nitrogen (as N)
 - i. Total Nitrate (as N)
 - j. Nitrate + Nitrite
 - k. Total Recoverable Phenolic Compounds (effluent only)
 - l. Total Recoverable Aluminum
 - m. Total Recoverable Arsenic
 - n. Total Recoverable Iron
 - o. Total Recoverable Lead
 - p. Total Recoverable Manganese
 - q. Total Recoverable Copper
 - r. Sulfate
 - s. Color
2. Upon submittal of quarterly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) covering at least two years of operation, the permittee may commence annual effluent monitoring for any parameter, except flow, for which no exceedances from the applicable standards contained in Chapter 62-520, F.A.C., were measured in the compliance wells that are monitored in accordance with Part II.E. of this permit. Parameters not meeting this requirement shall continue quarterly analysis.
3. Before the reduction in monitoring commences, the permittee shall inform the Department in writing of its intent to discontinue quarterly analysis of those parameters that meet Part II.D.2 of this permit. The Department will then supply to the permittee a revised DMR containing the monitoring changes.
4. The permittee shall conduct annual effluent monitoring during the operating season for the following parameters:

- a. Ethylbenzene
 - b. Tetrachloroethylene (TCE)
 - c. Avermectin
 - d. Total Xylenes
 - e. 2,5-Dichlorophenol
 - f. Toluene
5. Upon detection of any of the parameters in Part II.D.4. above in the effluent, the permittee shall initiate quarterly ground water monitoring for that parameter in accordance with the procedures outlined in Part II.E. below.
 6. Annual effluent monitoring shall be conducted at a minimum of 12 months, but no more than 15 months, apart.
 7. All parameters except flow shall be collected by grab sample. Samples shall be taken at the nearest accessible point after final treatment but prior to the actual discharge to the land application system.
 8. During the period of operation authorized by this permit, the permittee shall complete and submit to the Department quarterly DMRs. Monitoring results for each monitoring period shall be submitted in accordance with the associated DMR due dates below.

SAMPLE PERIOD	REPORT DUE DATE
January-March	April 28
April-June	July 28
July-September	October 28
October-December	January 28

DMRs shall be submitted for each required monitoring period including quarters of no discharge. The permittee shall make copies of the attached DMR form(s) and shall submit the completed DMR form(s) to the Wastewater Compliance Evaluation Section in Tallahassee or, if advised otherwise in the Notice of Coverage letter, to the appropriate District or Branch Office at the address specified in condition V.A.1.

9. Upon renewal of coverage, the permittee shall continue effluent and groundwater sampling in accordance with Parts II.D.1, II.D.4 and II.E.2 of this generic permit. Parameters that have met the provisions of Parts II.D.2 and II.E.13 shall continue annual analysis.

E. Ground Water Monitoring Requirements

1. During the period of operation authorized by this permit, the permittee shall sample ground water in accordance with this permit and the approved Ground Water Monitoring Plan prepared in accordance with Part III.B. Existing facilities shall continue to utilize existing monitoring wells approved by previous permits unless the facility chooses to prepare a revised Ground Water Monitoring Plan in accordance with Rule 62-522.600, F.A.C., and Part III.B of this permit. The approved Ground Water Monitoring Plan is a specific condition of this permit except that sampling frequency shall be as described in Part II.E.2 and the analytical parameters shall be as described in Part II.E.4.
2. Quarterly groundwater samples shall be collected at a minimum of 60 days apart. Annual groundwater samples shall be collected at a minimum of 12 months, but no more than 15 months, apart.
3. Samples shall be collected, transported, maintained, and analyzed in accordance with the quality assurance requirements in Rule 62-4.246, F.A.C., Chapter 62-160, F.A.C. and the Department's "Standard Operating Procedures For Laboratory Operations and Sample Collection Activities," DEP-SOP-001/01, January 2002.
4. The monitoring wells shall be sampled and monitored for the parameters identified in Part II.D.1., excluding flow, oil & grease, and Total Recoverable Phenolic Compounds.

5. A zone of discharge is established for the discharge of the percolation pond to ground water as follows:
 - a. For facilities defined as existing facilities in Rule 62-522.200, F.A.C., the zone of discharge shall extend horizontally to the permittee's property line.
 - b. For facilities not defined as existing facilities in Rule 62-522.200, F.A.C., the zone of discharge shall extend 100 feet from the edge of the percolation pond or to the permittee's property boundary, whichever is less.
6. Discharge to ground water shall not cause a violation of water quality standards for ground waters at the boundary of the zone of discharge in accordance with Rules 62-520.400 and 62-520.420, F.A.C.
7. Discharge to ground water shall not cause a violation of the minimum criteria for ground water specified in Rule 62-520.400, F.A.C., within the zone of discharge
8. Water levels shall be recorded and reported before evacuating the wells for sample collection. Elevation references shall include the top of the well casing and land surface at each well site (NAVD 88) at a precision of plus or minus 0.01 foot.
9. Ground water monitoring wells shall be evacuated or purged prior to sampling to obtain a representative sample.
10. Analyses shall be conducted on unfiltered samples, unless filtered samples have been approved by the Department as being more representative of ground water conditions.
11. If a monitoring well becomes damaged or cannot be sampled for some reason, the permittee shall notify Department with a written report within seven days detailing the circumstances and remedial measures taken or proposed. Replacement of monitoring wells shall be approved in advance by the Department.
12. Ground water monitoring test results shall be submitted on Part D of Form 62-620.910(10). Results shall be submitted for each year during the period of operation allowed by this permit. Results shall be submitted on the DMR for each quarter listed in accordance with Part II.D.7 to the appropriate District or Branch Office at the address specified in condition V.A.1.
13. Upon submittal of eight consecutive quarterly DMRs covering at least two years of operation, the permittee may discontinue quarterly analysis and commence annual analysis for any parameter for which no exceedances from the applicable standards contained in Chapter 62-520, F.A.C., were measured in the compliance wells that are monitored in accordance with Part II.E. of this permit.
14. Before the reduction in monitoring commences, the permittee shall inform the Department in writing of its intention to discontinue quarterly analysis of those parameters that meet Part II.E.13 of this permit. The Department will then supply to the permittee a revised DMR containing the monitoring changes. These monitoring requirements apply only until such time that the provisions of this subsection have been met for all parameters listed above, excluding water level.

F. Recordkeeping

1. The permittee shall keep records of the number of days and the dates of operation of the land application site each year, the volume of wash water disposed of each day, and the amount of citrus fruit processed (in boxes) each week.
2. The permittee shall keep records of the maintenance performed to ensure proper operation of the percolation pond, including those items required under Part II.C of this permit.

3. The permittee shall keep records of solids land applied or transferred to other persons. The record shall include the approximate amount of solids, recipient's name and address, if applicable, and location of disposal, if known.
4. The permittee shall also maintain the following records on the site of the permitted facility:
 - a. Copies of all reports required by this generic permit.
 - b. Records of all data, including reports and documents used to complete the request for coverage under this generic permit.
 - c. A copy of this generic permit; and
 - d. A copy of the record drawings required by Part V.B.3 of this generic permit, if applicable.
5. The records of this section shall be kept on site for a period of five years.

PART III Design Requirements

A. Siting and Design Requirements for Percolation Pond Wash Water Disposal Land Application Systems

1. At the land application site, there shall be a minimum unsaturated depth to the water table of 36 inches during the operational season as determined by soil surveys and by a Professional Geologist or Professional Engineer.
2. New facilities shall maintain a minimum setback distance of 100 feet between the wetted perimeter and the property line. Existing facilities may have a minimum setback distance of 50 feet between the wetted perimeter and the property line.
3. A minimum setback distance of 500 feet shall be maintained between the wetted perimeter and public drinking water supply wells existing prior to the initial date of coverage under this permit. In addition, a minimum setback distance of 500 feet shall be maintained between the wetted perimeter and Class I & II surface waters as defined in Rule 62-302.400, F.A.C.
4. New facilities shall maintain a minimum setback distance of 75 feet between the wetted perimeter and private drinking water supply wells existing prior to the initial date of coverage under this permit.
5. Percolation ponds and/or above-grade dikes shall be designed to provide a minimum of three feet of freeboard in order to protect the integrity of pond embankments.
6. Percolation ponds shall be provided with an emergency discharge or overflow device to prevent water levels from rising within one foot of the top of the embankment or berm. The overflow device shall have sufficient capacity to discharge excess flows following a rainfall event exceeding the 25-year, 24-hour storm event. Disposition of the overflow discharge shall be identified in the Notice of Intent.
7. Above-grade dikes shall be designed to prevent embankment failure due to hydrostatic forces, seepage or soil piping, wind and wave action, erosion, and other anticipated conditions. Side slopes should not be steeper than 2:1 (horizontal to vertical). Results from field and laboratory tests from an adequate number of test borings or soil samples shall be the basis for computations pertaining to seepage and stability analyses.
8. Percolation ponds shall be sited to avoid areas of uneven subsidence, sinkholes, pockets of organic topsoil, areas of very low permeability (e.g., clay soils), or other unsuitable soils unless provisions are made for their correction.

9. Below grade percolation ponds shall be designed to prevent the entrance (i.e., "run-on") of stormwater. If necessary, berms shall be placed around the application area for this purpose.
10. Percolation ponds shall be enclosed with a fence or otherwise designed and maintained with appropriate features to prevent the entry of animals and unauthorized persons. A perimeter fence enclosing the entire packinghouse would be an acceptable alternative.
11. Percolation ponds shall be sized to result in an effective application rate. The design loading rate shall be a maximum average of two inches per week during the period of operation. A design loading rate greater than two inches per week average will require justification in the engineering report on the basis of the renovating and hydraulic capacity of the soil, the existing quality and use of surface or ground water in the area, and other hydrogeologic conditions.
12. New facilities shall have percolation ponds that consist of a minimum of two cells to allow for alternate hydraulic loading and resting cycles during all operational periods. The cells shall be designed to avoid positioning parallel with the direction of ground water flow as determined by a Professional Geologist or Professional Engineer.

B. Ground Water Monitoring Plan

1. A Ground Water Monitoring Plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Department along with the request for coverage. The Ground Water Monitoring Plan shall contain the information specified in Rule 62-522.600(3), F.A.C., with the following exceptions:
 - a. The sampling and chemical analysis protocol shall be as described in Part II.D of this permit.
 - b. Description of background water quality shall be limited to the parameters listed in Part II.E.4 of this permit.
2. The location of monitoring wells to be installed shall be as specified by Rule 62-522.600(6)(a) through (c), F.A.C., with prior approval of the Department.
3. Plan approval. Within 90 days of the date of the Department's receipt of a completed monitoring plan, or at the time of permit coverage or denial, whichever is appropriate, the Department shall either approve or deny the monitoring plan.
4. Implementation of monitoring program. The permittee shall begin the monitoring program based upon the plan 30 days before placing the land application system into operation such that one set of samples is obtained prior to operation of the land application system.

Part IV Schedules

1. A Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan shall be implemented in accordance with Part V.C of this permit and the following schedule:

New facilities:

Develop BMP Plan-----Prior to effective date of coverage

Implement BMP Plan-----Effective date of coverage or upon commencement of operation, whichever is later

Existing facilities:

Develop BMP Plan ----- Effective date of coverage plus 3 months

Implement BMP Plan----- Effective date of coverage plus 6 months

2. Facilities seeking renewal under this generic permit shall continue to implement the existing BMP plan.

3. Facilities obtaining coverage under this generic permit shall comply with the conditions of this generic permit in accordance with the following schedule:

New facilities:

Operational level attained----- Effective date of coverage or upon commencement of operation, whichever is later

Existing facilities:

Operational level attained----- Effective date of coverage

Part V Other Specific Conditions

A. Specific Conditions Applicable to all Permits

1. Unless specified otherwise in this permit or in writing by the Department, all reports and notifications required by this permit, including twenty-four hour notifications, shall be submitted or reported, as the case may be, to the Department's Industrial Wastewater Section of the district or branch office of the district in which the facility is located. Addresses of the Department's district offices can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/iw/contacts.htm>.
2. Drawings, plans, documents or specifications submitted by the permittee, not attached hereto, but retained on file with the Department, are made a part hereof.
3. Where specified in this generic permit, documents shall be signed and sealed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Florida pursuant to Chapter 471, F.S.
4. All of the general conditions listed in Rule 62-621.250, F.A.C., are adopted herein by reference.

B. Specific Conditions Related to Construction

1. Prior to and during construction of systems specified in this generic permit, the permittee shall implement and maintain all erosion and sediment control measures required to retain sediment on-site and to prevent violations of state water quality standards. The permittee is encouraged to use appropriate best management practices described in the Florida Land Development Manual: A Guide to Sound Land and Water Management (Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, 1988).
2. Within thirty days of completion of construction, the permittee shall submit to the Department a completed "Certification of Completion of Construction" (DEP Form 62-620.910(12)) signed and sealed by the engineer of record.
3. Record drawings shall be prepared and made available in accordance with Rule 62-620.410(6), F.A.C., within six months of placing new or substantially modified facilities into operation.

C. Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan

1. BMP Plan:

For purposes of this section, the terms "pollutant" or "pollutants" refer to any substance listed as toxic under Section 307(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (the "Act"), oil, as defined in Section 311(a)(1) of the Act, and any substance listed as hazardous under Section 311 of the Act. The permittee shall develop and implement a Best Management Practices (BMP) plan which prevents, or minimizes, the potential for the release of pollutants from ancillary activities, including plant site runoff; process and material handling and storage areas; loading and unloading operations; and sludge and waste disposal areas to the waters of the State. The plan shall also address maintenance of the percolation pond to ensure an effective application rate.

2. Implementation:

The BMP plan shall be developed and implemented in accordance with Rule 62-621.260, F.A.C., and the schedule contained in Part IV of this permit.

3. General Requirements:

The BMP plan shall:

- a. Be documented in narrative form, and shall include any necessary plot plans, drawings or maps.
- b. Establish specific objectives for the control of pollutants.
 - 1) Each facility component or system shall be examined for its potential for causing a release of significant amounts of pollutants to waters of the State due to equipment failure, improper operation, natural phenomena such as rain, etc.
 - 2) Where experience indicates a reasonable potential for equipment failure (e.g., a tank overflow or leakage), natural conditions (e.g., precipitation), or other circumstances to result in significant amounts of pollutants reaching waters of the state, the plan should include a prediction of the direction, rate of flow, and total quantity of pollutants which could be discharged from the facility as a result of each condition or circumstance.
- c. Establish specific best management practices to meet the objectives identified under paragraph b of this subsection, addressing each component or system capable of causing a release of significant amounts of pollutants to the waters of the State, and identifying specific preventative or remedial measures to be implemented.
- d. Be reviewed by plant engineering staff and plant manager.

4. Documentation:

The permittee shall maintain the BMP plan at the facility and shall make the plan available to the Department upon request.

5. BMP Plan Modification:

The permittee shall amend the BMP plan whenever there is a change in the facility or change in the operation of the facility which materially increases the potential for the ancillary activities to result in a discharge of significant amounts of pollutants.

6. Modification for Ineffectiveness:

The permittee shall modify the BMP plan if it proves to be ineffective in achieving the general objective of preventing the release of significant amounts of pollutants to waters of the state and the specific objectives and requirements established pursuant to paragraphs b and c of item 3.