# Water Pollution Control Facilities Permit
# Permit Fact Sheet
# National Frozen Foods Corporation
# Final: December 16, 2024

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Western Region Office
4026 Fairview Industrial Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302

| | |
|---|---|
| **Permittee** | National Frozen Foods Corporations<br>745 SW 30th Avenue<br>Albany, OR 97322 |
| **Existing Permit Information** | File Number: 59790<br>Permit Number: 101719<br>Expiration Date: July 31, 2016 |
| **Permittee Contact** | Shawn Dryden<br>745 SW 30th Avenue<br>Albany, OR 97322<br>541-928-3306 |
| **Facility Location** | National Frozen Foods Processing Plant<br>Two miles south of Albany off Highway 99E<br>Albany, OR 97322 |
| **LLID** | 1231182446057 |
| **Nearest Surface Stream/Basin** | Receiving stream: Unnamed tributary of the Calapooia<br>Basin: Willamette<br>Sub-Basin: Upper Willamette |
| **Proposed Action** | Permit Renewal<br>Application Number: 957228<br>Date Application Received: April 25, 2016 |
| **Source Category** | WPCF – Industrial Minor |
| **Sources Covered** | Industrial Wastewater |
| **Permit Type** | WPCF-IW-B04 |
| **Permit Writer** | Steve Nichols<br>541-972-5466<br>Natural Resource Specialist / Western Region<br>Date Prepared: October 17, 2024 |

# WPCF Permit Fact Sheet
# National Frozen Foods Corporation

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# WPCF Permit Renewal Fact Sheet
# National Frozen Foods Corporation

# 1. Introduction

DEQ received renewal application 957228 on April 25, 2016, for National Frozen Foods, located at 745 SW 30th Avenue, Albany, Oregon. DEQ proposes to renew the permit. The purpose of this permit evaluation report is to explain and provide justification for the permit renewal. A renewed permit is necessary to operate a wastewater treatment and disposal system pursuant to provisions of Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B.050. This proposed permit action by DEQ complies with state requirements.

The National Frozen Foods vegetable processing plant operates year-round with a majority of the vegetable processing occurring during the growing season. Wastewater is generated from the washing and processing of vegetables. This wastewater is discharged on 340 acres of approved irrigation land located about 2 miles south of Albany, Oregon just east of Highway 99E.

# 2. Permit History

## 2.1 Issuance, Renewal, and Modification

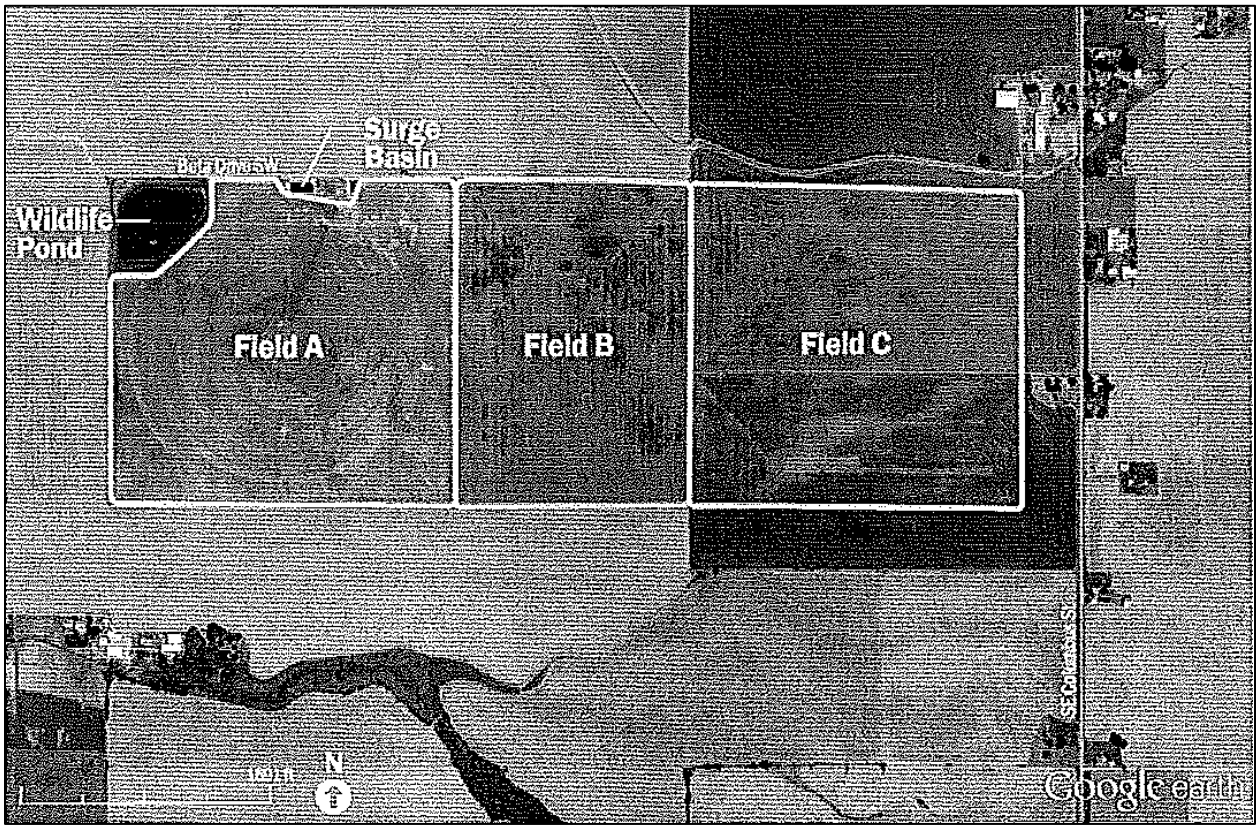
Wastewater is treated and disposed in accordance with existing WPCF permit #101719. The original permit was issued in 1987. The current permit was issued on August 29, 2006. The permit expired on July 31, 2016. The permittee submitted a renewal application on time and the current permit remains in effect until DEQ takes final action on the renewal application as per OAR 340-045-0040. No modifications were made to the current permit.

# 3. Facilities Description

## 3.1 Overview

National Frozen Foods processes primarily frozen vegetables (beans and squash). Beans are processed by washing, cutting, blanching, and freezing. Some purees are made from frozen corn or other vegetables and re-frozen. Squash is processed by washing, removing seeds, pureeing, and freezing. Typically, in July through November, wastewater produced from defrost cycle drainage, processing vegetables, boiler blow down and wash-down water is applied to fields A, B and C. During the rest of the year, wastewater is discharged to the City of Albany sanitary sewer system.

**Figure 3-1: National Frozen Foods Land Application Sites – Aerial View**




# 3.2 Wastewater Sources and Treatment (prior to land application)

Sources of wastewater include defrost cycle drainage, water produced from washing and cleaning of vegetables, and boiler blow down water. A morning defrost cycle occurs from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. every day. A one hour clean up cycle occurs between each shift every day. Major clean-up of the plant process is also completed.

All water used in the washing and processing areas of the plant are collected in trench drains along the floor that flow by gravity to three wet wells (pea pit, puree pit, and packaging pit) that flow into a main wet well (main waste pit). Each wet well is equipped with at least one pump. Pump operation is controlled by float switches in the wet wells. The main wet well is equipped with a Parkson Hycor Rotoshear screen and a storage hopper for the screenings. The screen starts when the pumps start. High pressure spray nozzles assist in cleaning the screens. Screening removed from the main wet well are used by a local farmer for silage. Seven storage tanks provide 45,000 gallons of holding capacity for screened wastewater. Wastewater is then pumped through a flow meter (propeller meter) and approximately 3.5 miles of 8-inch poly vinyl chloride pressure main to a 1-million-gallon asphalt lined holding pond near the irrigation site. Wastewater is screened with two hillside screens prior to being discharged into the holding pond. From the holding pond wastewater flows into a wet well. A Godwin pump, pumps the wastewater to the fields. There are two bypass options for the screens. A valve may be opened to

allow wastewater to discharge directly into the holding pond. Bypassing of the screens and holding ponds may be done to direct wastewater directly to the irrigation wet well.
In 2016 the facility began agitating the water in the holding pond using a pump to keep the wastewater moving and keep solids in suspension. In 2016, the facility began bypassing the hillside screens. This was done to apply a more uniform distribution of the solids to the irrigation area. This also allowed less solids to be removed from the holding pond at the end of the season. A propeller flow meter is located on the main irrigation pipe downstream from the centrifugal pump and holding pond. Wastewater samples are collected from a hose on this main irrigation pipe.

## 3.3 Irrigation System and Site

From the wet well wastewater is pumped to either a center-pivot irrigation system (field A) or a linear irrigation system (fields B and C). Big gun irrigation is used to irrigate corner areas of Field A. All three fields are tiled. Field A tiles drain to the wet land pond in the winter. During the irrigation season water from the tile drains is stored in an irrigation ditch and reapplied to the fields. Fields B and C drain to separate irrigation ditches that are closed off during the irrigation season. If water is seen in these irrigation ditches, irrigation is stopped.

The permittee owns approximately 340 acres. Approximately 120 acres (field A) of the approved irrigation land is used by National Frozen Foods to grow hay or “green chop”. This field is always planted to grass. The other 220 acres are rotated between grass, corn, squash, or green beans. Fields B and C are typically harvested once a year. In the past years, grass, clover pasture, green beans, squash, corn, and fescue grass seed crops have been alternated on the approved acreage.

**Figure 3-2: National Frozen Foods Holding Pond and Artificial Wetland**

## 3.4 Stormwater

The facility has a current 1200Z general permit.

## 3.5 Groundwater

The irrigation site is located near a current Groundwater Management Area which has been designated as a sensitive aquifer and is being studied for sources of pollutants in order to protect the groundwater for beneficial uses, the most sensitive of which is drinking water. Three groundwater monitoring wells were installed in 1991. The monitoring wells are located around field A (see Figure 3 below). Two drinking water wells are located near the irrigation site (see Figure 3 below).

**Figure 3-3: National Frozen Foods Nearby Drinking Water Wells**

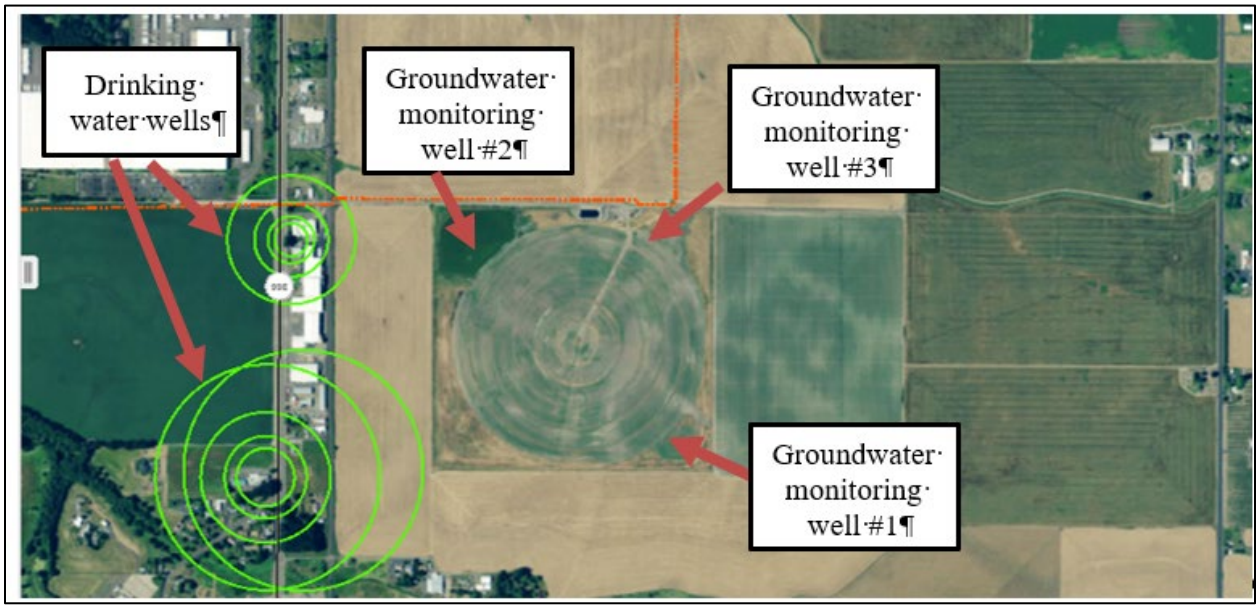



**Table 3-1: National Frozen Foods Groundwater Monitoring Wells Description**

| Well Number | Description | Depth, (feet) | Approximate water level elevation (feet mean sea level) |
|---|---|---|---|
| MW-1 | Southeast of field A | 15 | 239.8 |
| MW-2 | Northwest of field A | 17.5 | 235.6 |
| MW-3 | Northeast of field A | 15.5 | 239.1 |

According to a DEQ senior hydrogeologist, groundwater flow direction at the site is not consistent. Groundwater flows W-NW or NW from December through May, which is consistent with the regional flow direction. During June through November, groundwater flows W or S-SW.

According to a DEQ senior hydrogeologist, the application of slurry solids in the fall may be related to observed changes in groundwater flow direction and/or spikes in groundwater nitrate concentrations.

According to a DEQ senior hydrogeologist, potential pathways for groundwater quality impacts are not well known because the natural timing and pathways of water and nutrients through the soil and groundwater are altered by the tile drains beneath the fields, the surrounding irrigation ditches, the reapplication of tile drainage as irrigation water, and the adjacent constructed wetland that receives tile drainage in the winter.

# 4. Permit Draft Discussion

## 4.1 Face Page

The permit allows wastewater land application within limits set by Schedule A.
The LLID assigned in the current permit was changed. The surface stream which would accept overflow from the facility would be an unnamed tributary of the Calapooia River.

## 4.2 Schedule A: Waste Disposal Limitations

Schedule A includes limitations on land application of wastewater.

## 4.3 Schedule B: Minimum Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Under the permit, Permittee is required to monitor the following: Outfall 001-Vegetable Processing Wastewater; Supplemental Irrigation Water; Land Application Area Soils; Land Application Area Management, Residual Solids Management, and Groundwater.

## 4.4 Schedule C: Compliance Schedules and Conditions

Under the oversight of a DEQ Hydrogeologist with guidance provided by the same, permittee must submit a Hydrogeologic Characterization, Groundwater Monitoring Plan, and a Water Quality Data Analysis Report.

Under the oversight of a DEQ Hydrogeologist with guidance provided by the same, based on the Water Quality Data Analysis Report, the permittee must:

i. Propose permit specific concentration limits pursuant to OAR 340-040-030(3), or

ii. Submit to DEQ an application for a concentration limit variance pursuant to OAR 340-40-030(4).

## 4.5 Schedule D: Special Conditions

Schedule D includes several special conditions to be implemented during the term of the permit.

## 4.6 Schedule F: General Conditions

These conditions are standard to all WPCF permits and address state statutes and rules that pertain to all types of system operations that do not discharge directly to surface waters. The General Conditions were revised in 2015.