



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Eastern Region The Dalles Office
400 East Scenic Drive, Suite 307
The Dalles, OR 97058
(541) 298-7255
FAX (541) 298-7330
TTY 711

March 16, 2026

James Baisinger
Director of Special Projects
Azure Standard
79709 Dufur Valley Rd.
Dufur, OR 97021

RE: Pre-Enforcement Notice
Azure Standard
Unpermitted Source
2026-PEN-10134
FIS RID #316749
Wasco County

Dear Mr. Baisinger:

On 1/7/2026, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) notified Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (“Department”) that a food processing facility at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd. in Dufur, OR, is currently discharging food processing wastewater to an irrigation pond. This email is provided as Attachment 1. Furthermore, in a separate email correspondence (Attachment 2), DEQ requested that Azure provide a copy of any applicable permit covering food processing wastewater discharge at the facility, and Azure responded but did not provide a permit. Also, DEQ has no record of a current or past permit authorizing food processing wastewater discharge at the facility.

Additionally, DEQ notified Azure on 9/15/2025 that a permit would be needed for discharge of food processing wastewater to an irrigation pond at a different facility, also in Wasco County (Attachment 3). Therefore, as of 9/15/2025, Azure was aware of the permitting requirement for disposal systems like the one at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd in Dufur.

Based upon this notification, the Department has concluded that Azure Standard is responsible for the following violations of Oregon environmental law:

VIOLATIONS:

- (1) OAR 340-0012-0055(1)(d): “Operating a discharge source or conducting a discharge activity without first obtaining an individual permit or applying for coverage under a general permit for that discharge or disposal activity;” (**Class I**).

The discharge of food processing wastewater to an irrigation pond at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd. is considered a discharge activity needing a permit under ORS 468B.050. Azure did not provide proof of holding a necessary permit, and DEQ is has no record of the facility having a permit; therefore, the discharge of food processing wastewater at the facility is considered to be in violation of Oregon environmental law.

Class I violations are the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious.

Azure Standard is operating a wastewater disposal system without a permit, therefore the Department has not been able to provide adequate oversight for this activity, including requiring monitoring and management practices to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

In order to correct the violation cited above, the Department requires that Azure Standard take the following actions by the date indicated:

Corrective Action Requested

Violation #1:

- 1) **By 4/15/2026**, submit a complete application for a 1400-B Food Processing Wastewater General Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) permit. The permit application must be submitted through the Your DEQ Online system and must include the required Land Use Compatibility Statement and payment of required permit fees.

Instructions for registering a Your DEQ Online account and submitting a permit application can be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Permits/Pages/Your-DEQ-Online.aspx>. A helpdesk is available here to provide additional support: <https://oregondeq.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/2>.

DEQ recommends submitting the permit application promptly, since civil penalties may be assessed for each day of violation.

Your timely and responsive action on these items will be taken into consideration in any civil penalty assessment issued by the Department.

The violation cited above is being referred to the Department's Office of Compliance and Enforcement for formal enforcement action. Formal enforcement action may result in assessment of civil penalties and/or a Department order. A formal enforcement action may include a civil penalty assessment for each day of violation.

If you believe any of the facts in this Pre-Enforcement Notice are in error, you may provide written information to me at the address shown at the top of the letter. The Department will consider new information you submit and take appropriate action.

The Department endeavors to assist you in your compliance efforts. Should you have any questions about the content of this letter, feel free contact me by email at Carl.Makepeace@deq.oregon.gov or by phone at 971-300-5142.

Sincerely,



Carl Makepeace
Land Application, Permitting, and Compliance Specialist
DEQ Eastern Region - Water Quality Land Application
400 E Scenic Dr Ste 307
The Dalles, OR 97058

Attachment 1

Email from Oregon Health Authority Notifying
DEQ of wastewater discharge at Azure
Standard Facility

MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ

From: SMITH Naaman * ODA
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 8:58 AM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ; Grendel Paula
Cc: HIATT Mike * DEQ; MORGAN-HAYES Anna * DEQ; HEINS Pat * DEQ
Subject: Re: Azure food processing facility

Hi Carl,

Thank you for the follow up with this firm. The firm in question is located at 79709 Dufur valley Rd Dufur OR 97021.

They have been operating at this location since Dec 2024. They produce acidified canned foods and also have a couple fruit packing lines inside the building. The firm operates at this location under the DBA of Sweek Creek Foods and is under the ownership of Azure Farms Inc.

It was my understanding from questions with the firms ownership that the process water generated from the food processing activities is captured in a pond which is used for irrigation at some point.

Thanks for looking into this. Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns. Have a nice day.

Naaman Smith, Food Safety Specialist
Oregon Department of Agriculture – Food Safety, Animal Health & ID
CELL: 503-508-0470 WEB: [Oregon.gov/ODA](https://www.oregon.gov/ODA)

From: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 4:38:33 PM
To: SMITH Naaman * ODA <Naaman.SMITH@oda.oregon.gov>; Grendel Paula <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Cc: HIATT Mike * DEQ <Mike.HIATT@deq.oregon.gov>; MORGAN-HAYES Anna * DEQ <Anna.MORGAN-HAYES@deq.oregon.gov>; HEINS Pat * DEQ <Pat.HEINS@deq.oregon.gov>
Subject: Azure food processing facility

Hi Naaman,

My name is Carl Makepeace. I'm a permitting specialist with DEQ's Eastern Region Water Quality Permitting team. I got a call earlier from Paula, who relayed some information to me that you shared with her, concerning a food processing facility outside of Dufur owned and/or operated by a company called Azure. I have been in discussions with Azure a few months ago to help them determine what kind of permit they would need in order to irrigate food processing wastewater at that site. No permit or authorization to dispose of food processing wastewater was issued to the site by us. It sounds like they may already be disposing of food processing wastewater, therefore I wanted to check in with you to make sure I am understanding correctly what you observed there.

Paula indicated that you told her the following details about your site visit, please confirm that this information is correct:

1. The facility in question is located at 65496 Boyd Loop Rd., Dufur, OR 97021
2. The facility is operated by a company known as “Azure”.
3. The facility is currently producing processed food products at the warehouse there, including processes for canning and acidifying foods.
4. Facility staff informed you that they have been disposing of food processing wastewater to an irrigation pond at the site.

Lastly, if you have a writeup or report of your visit there, would you mind sending that as well? You are welcome to share any additional information you think might be relevant to wastewater permitting.

Once I confirm this information with you, I will reach out to the facility to verify with them.

If you have any questions for me, please let me know.



Carl Makepeace

Land Application, Permitting, and Compliance

DEQ Eastern Region – Water Quality

400 E Scenic Dr Ste 307, The Dalles, OR 97058

Cell: (971) 300-5142

Pronouns: He/him/his

[Biosolids](#) | [Recycled Water](#) | [Industrial Reuse](#)

Attachment 2

Azure Standard's response to DEQ's request
for information related to wastewater
discharge at the Azure Standard facility.

MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ

From: James Baisinger <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 4:05 PM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ
Cc: STERGER Justin * DEQ; MORGAN-HAYES Anna * DEQ
Subject: Re: Food processing wastewater at 79709 Dufur valley Rd Dufur OR 97021

Carl,
Thank you for your explanation and for citing the statutory definitions DEQ is relying upon. After reviewing your response, we would like to focus on a threshold issue that appears to underlie the applicability of ORS 468B.050(1)(b).

As you noted, ORS 468B.005(1) defines a “disposal system” as a system for disposing of “wastes,” and ORS 468B.005(9) defines “wastes” as substances that “will or may cause pollution or tend to cause pollution of any waters of the state.” In our view, whether a disposal system exists at this site depends first on whether the material being managed meets the statutory definition of “waste.”

At this facility, water associated with cannery operations is not amended with industrial chemicals, additives, or reagents. The material present consists solely of food-grade, organic constituents consistent with agricultural products. There is no surface water discharge, and no identified pathway by which the water, as managed, would enter waters of the state.

Given these site-specific facts, we respectfully question whether it is appropriate to presume that the water managed on-site constitutes “waste” within the meaning of ORS 468B.005(9), absent a showing that it will or may cause pollution under the conditions in which it is generated and managed. If the material does not meet the statutory definition of “waste,” then it follows that the pond and associated infrastructure would not constitute a “disposal system” as defined in ORS 468B.005(1).

We raise this not to dispute DEQ’s regulatory authority, but to seek clarification on how DEQ applies the statutory definition of “waste” to the specific facts at this location before proceeding further with detailed submittals or permitting discussions. We remain committed to working cooperatively with DEQ and to providing additional information as appropriate once this threshold issue is clarified.

Carl, we sincerely appreciate your consideration and look forward to your guidance. We are attentive to these details because environmental stewardship is central to how we operate. “Keep it Clean & Sustainable” is one of Azure Standard’s core values, and it guides how we manage our facilities, our processes, and our responsibilities to the land and communities in which we operate.

For reference, Azure Standard’s core values on this topic are publicly available here: [Azure Core Value 9 - Keep it Clean & Sustainable](#). We share this simply to provide context for our approach and our interest in ensuring that our operations are accurately understood and responsibly managed.

We appreciate DEQ’s role in safeguarding Oregon’s environmental resources and welcome continued dialogue to ensure our operations are aligned with both regulatory expectations and our shared commitment to environmental responsibility.

Sincerely,

James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects

Azure Standard

Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>

To: "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>

Cc: "STERGER Justin, DEQ" <Justin.STERGER@deq.oregon.gov>, "MORGAN-HAYES Anna, DEQ" <Anna.MORGAN-HAYES@deq.oregon.gov>, "Rebecca Wathen" <rebecca.wathen@azurestandard.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:25:09 AM

Subject: RE: Food processing wastewater at 79709 Dufur valley Rd Dufur OR 97021

James,

ODA indicated to us that food processing wastewater is being disposed of at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd, through discharge to an irrigation pond, from which point the wastewater is potentially irrigated onto an agricultural field. In reference to Oregon Revised Statute:

- ORS 468B.005(9) defines “wastes” as “sewage, industrial wastes, and all other liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive or other substances which will or may cause pollution or tend to cause pollution of any waters of the state.” Since food processing wastewater is known to have the potential to cause pollution to groundwater and surface water, DEQ considers it a waste with reference to this definition.
- ORS 468B.005(1) defines a “disposal system” as “a system for disposing of wastes, either by surface or underground methods and includes municipal sewerage systems, domestic sewerage systems, treatment works, disposal wells and other systems.” Since the system said to be in place at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd may involve the disposal of wastes (as defined above) to an irrigation pond and potentially to an agricultural field, DEQ would consider this hypothetical system to be a disposal system with reference to this definition.
- Since the system said to be at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd is considered to be a disposal system, ORS 468B.050(1)(b) applies, which states in part “Except as provided in [ORS 468B.053 \(Alternatives to obtaining water quality permit\)](#) or [468B.215 \(Fees\)](#), without holding a permit from the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or the State Department of Agriculture, which permit shall specify applicable effluent limitations, a person may not: ... Construct, install, modify or operate any disposal system or part thereof or any extension or addition thereto.” Therefore, a permit is required in order for a facility to discharge food processing wastewater to an irrigation pond.

I hope this response answers your questions.

In addition to the information I requested on 1/13, it may also be helpful for you to share a water use diagram of the facility describing all water sources to the site, uses in your operations, types of waste solids and wastewater generated, and discharge locations (to the pond(s), for irrigation, or any other discharge points). That would allow us to best evaluate your situation and understand what materials handled at this facility may be considered waste under ORS 468B.

-Carl Makepeace

From: James Baisinger <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 5:28 PM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
Cc: STERGER Justin * DEQ <Justin.STERGER@deq.oregon.gov>; MORGAN-HAYES Anna * DEQ <Anna.MORGAN-HAYES@deq.oregon.gov>; Rebecca Wathen <rebecca.wathen@azurestandard.com>
Subject: Re: Food processing wastewater at 79709 Dufur valley Rd Dufur OR 97021

Carl,
Thank you for your email and for outlining DEQ's concerns regarding potential applicability of ORS 468B.050 to the Azure Farms Inc. facility at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd.

As part of our review, we would appreciate clarification from DEQ regarding which specific provisions of ORS 468B.050 are believed to apply to operations at this site and the factual basis for that determination.

Based on our current understanding of facility operations, Azure Farms does not add constituents to water managed on-site beyond what would reasonably be present in natural stormwater runoff from dry land. There is no intentional introduction of industrial chemicals, additives, or waste products to the water used for irrigation, and the water is managed for agricultural reuse rather than disposal to surface waters.

Given that context, it appears that the only potentially applicable provision of ORS 468B.050 may be subsection (1)(b), relating to the operation of a "disposal system." However, it is not clear to us how the irrigation pond and associated reuse practices at this facility would meet DEQ's interpretation of a disposal system under that subsection, particularly where water quality is not materially altered from natural background conditions.

We respectfully request that DEQ clarify:

- * Which subsection(s) of ORS 468B.050 it believes apply to this facility; and
- * The specific operational or structural elements that DEQ considers to constitute a regulated disposal system under the statute.

This information will help ensure that our response is fully responsive and that any next steps are aligned with DEQ's regulatory interpretation.

We appreciate your engagement on this matter and look forward to your guidance.

Sincerely,

James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects

Azure Standard

Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
To: "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Cc: "STERGER Justin, DEQ" <Justin.STERGER@deq.oregon.gov>, "MORGAN-HAYES Anna, DEQ" <Anna.MORGAN-HAYES@deq.oregon.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 8:58:56 AM
Subject: Food processing wastewater at 79709 Dufur valley Rd Dufur OR 97021

James,

Last week ODA indicated to me that there is a food processing facility operated by Azure Farms Inc. at 79709 Dufur Valley Rd, Dufur, OR 97021, and that this facility is discharging food processing wastewater to an irrigation pond on the property. ORS 468B.050 item 1(b) prohibits the operation of a wastewater disposal system without a permit from the Oregon DEQ. For this facility, does Azure or some other entity hold a wastewater permit from DEQ allowing discharge of food processing wastewater to the irrigation pond? If not, then I must make you aware that such activity will likely be considered a violation of the statute cited above, and that civil penalties may be assessed for each day of non-compliance. Therefore, please respond by replying to this email by January 20, with an explanation of whether the facility has a permit allowing disposal of food processing wastewater or not. If you have such a permit, then please attach it in your response. If the facility does not have a permit, please provide the following details to facilitate a determination of what permitting solutions are necessary to properly cover disposal food processing wastewater there:

1. What food processing activities generate wastewater at the facility?
2. Are any other types of wastewater commingled with food processing wastewater?
3. What is the approximate volume of food processing wastewater generated annually at the facility?
4. Is the irrigation pond lined?
5. What areas are irrigated from the irrigation pond? Please provide a brief description of the irrigation system (pivot vs. wheel line or other) and a list of crops known to be grown there.

Any additional information you feel is relevant to wastewater permitting at this site will also be considered.



Carl Makepeace

Land Application, Permitting, and Compliance

DEQ Eastern Region – Water Quality

400 E Scenic Dr Ste 307, The Dalles, OR 97058

Cell: (971) 300-5142

Pronouns: He/him/his

[Biosolids](#) | [Recycled Water](#) | [Industrial Reuse](#)

Attachment 3

DEQ notification to Azure Standard of the
permitting requirement for discharge of food
processing wastewater

MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ

From: James Baisinger <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:04 PM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ
Cc: Grendel Paula
Subject: Re: Waste water disposal for produce washing

Hi Carl,
Checking on this.
J

James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects

Azure Standard
Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
To: "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Cc: "Paula Grendel" <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 1:08:15 PM
Subject: RE: Waste water disposal for produce washing

James,

I'm sorry to do this in bits and pieces, but I have another question for you: If you're only producing 2000 gallons per year of wastewater, I assume you will have another source of water that will be irrigated through the pivot. Will that be canal water commingled with wastewater in the pond, and then the pivot system would pump from the pond?

I don't yet have an answer on the requirements for an unlined pond, more to come later this week.

-Carl Makepeace

From: James Baisinger <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:48 AM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
Cc: Grendel Paula <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Subject: Re: Waste water disposal for produce washing

Yes, please see the attached plan showing the retention pond location site.
Thank you,

James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects

Azure Standard
Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
To: "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Cc: "Paula Grendel" <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:35:11 AM
Subject: RE: Waste water disposal for produce washing

James,

Let me get back to you on what would be required. In the meantime, can you provide a map to locate the pond?

-Carl Makepeace

From: James Baisinger <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:35 AM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
Cc: Grendel Paula <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Subject: Re: Waste water disposal for produce washing

Hi Carl,
Yes, we'd prefer an unlined pond as it will be empty most of the time. Can this be an option for us?
Thank you,

James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects
Azure Standard
Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <Carl.MAKEPEACE@deq.oregon.gov>
To: "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Cc: "Paula Grendel" <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 4:19:09 PM
Subject: RE: Waste water disposal for produce washing

James,

I just wanted to check in on this question. As you may have guessed, there are difficulties in permitting a system which includes storage of wastewater in an unlined pond. Please let me know either way, and I can provide more information from there.

-Carl Makepeace

From: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <carl.makepeace@deq.oregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:12 PM
To: 'James Baisinger' <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Cc: Grendel Paula <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Subject: RE: Waste water disposal for produce washing

James,

I apologize for the delay. Does the pond have a liner, such as one made from plastic or clay, that would provide a barrier to leakage? Can you point out the pond on a map?

-Carl Makepeace

From: James Baisinger <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:17 AM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <carl.makepeace@deq.oregon.gov>
Cc: Grendel Paula <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Subject: Re: Waste water disposal for produce washing

Hi Carl,
Checking in to make sure this came through ok, and to see if you had any follow-up items for us?
Thank you,

James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects

Azure Standard

Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
To: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <carl.makepeace@deq.oregon.gov>
Cc: "Paula Grendel" <Paulag@ncphd.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:36:53 PM
Subject: Re: Waste water disposal for produce washing

Hi Carl,
Please see the answers to your questions below.

1. For the produce-washing processes, that wastewater would be going to the pond for irrigation reuse, correct?
Correct.

2. All sanitary wastewater from toilets, bathroom sinks, and showers, would be going to a septic system, correct?
Correct.

3. For the tool/implement-washing processes, where do you plan to send that wastewater? To the irrigation reuse system, or the septic system? Some other place?
Big implements that are rinsed in place will go into the floor drain and then into the irrigation reuse system.

Smaller tools and implements that will be washed in a sink will go into the septic system.

4. What is the existing pond used for currently? What is the water source for the pond currently?
The pond was built for recreation prior to our purchase. It is presently has no active use. It's only source of water currently is overflow from the irrigation system.

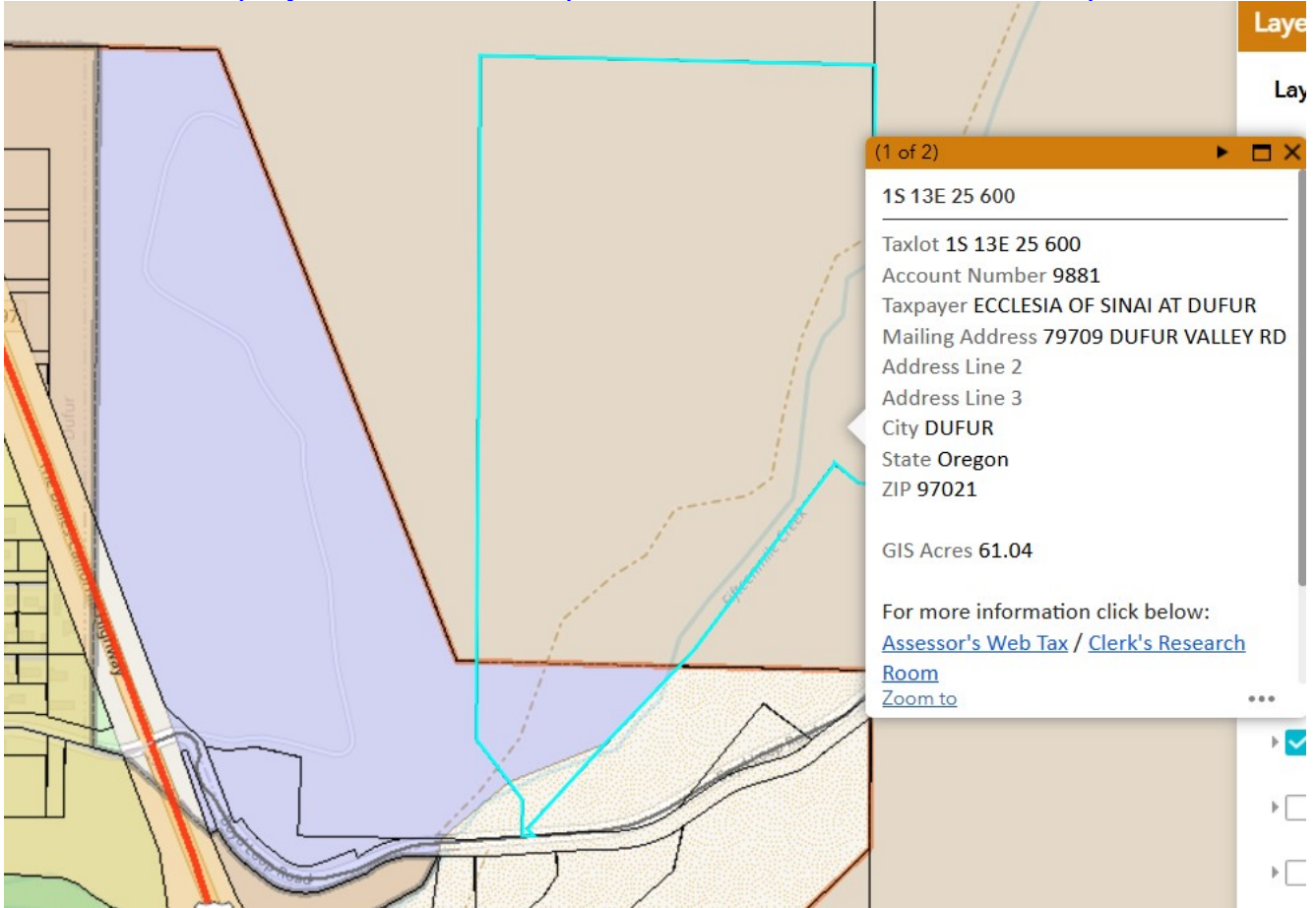
5. What type of irrigation system will be used? Impact, drip, or something else?
Pivot Irrigation will be used.

6. Aside from cucumbers and carrots, what other crops will be grown with the reuse irrigation water?

[Future plans include rotating in small grains and legumes.](#)

7. I'm having a hard time finding the address—google maps seems to think that Boyd Market is the same as Boyd Loop. Can you send me a screenshot of an aerial photo from google maps or something similar? That way I can know exactly where we are talking about.

[Yes, here's the Property Location and Description from the Wasco Co. Public Basemap](#)



James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects

Azure Standard

Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <carl.makepeace@deq.oregon.gov>

To: "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>

Cc: "Paula Grendel" <Paulag@ncphd.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:29:54 AM

Subject: RE: Waste water disposal for produce washing

James,

Thank you, this is a great start. I have a few follow-up questions:

1. For the produce-washing processes, that wastewater would be going to the pond for irrigation reuse, correct?

2. All sanitary wastewater from toilets, bathroom sinks, and showers, would be going to a septic system, correct?
3. For the tool/implement-washing processes, where do you plan to send that wastewater? To the irrigation reuse system, or the septic system? Some other place?
4. What is the existing pond used for currently? What is the water source for the pond currently?
5. What type of irrigation system will be used? Impact, drip, or something else?
6. Aside from cucumbers and carrots, what other crops will be grown with the reuse irrigation water?
7. I'm having a hard time finding the address—google maps seems to think that Boyd Market is the same as Boyd Loop. Can you send me a screenshot of an aerial photo from google maps or something similar? That way I can know exactly where we are talking about.

-Carl Makepeace

From: James Baisinger <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:40 PM

To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <carl.makepeace@deq.oregon.gov>

Cc: Grendel Paula <Paulag@ncphd.org>

Subject: Re: Waste water disposal for produce washing

You don't often get email from james.baisinger@azurestandard.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Carl,

Here's the scoop:

[1. What is the address of the facility?](#)

65496 Boyd Loop Rd.
Dufur, OR 97021

[2. Brief description of the process that will produce non-sanitary wastewater.](#)

This is an Agricultural Storage building where we expect to wash down tools, implements, and floor space where items are stored.

[3. List any chemicals or cleaning products that are used in the wash area or could otherwise be introduced to the waste stream.](#)

This building will be third party certified to meet National Organic Program (NOP) requirements. That cert will happen as quickly as possible at the outset of use which means:

- No synthetic chemicals, pesticides, or cleaners are used.
- Any cleaning agents that are used (e.g., for surfaces, or floors) are OMRI-listed or otherwise approved by Oregon Tilth.
- Rinses are done in a way that prevents residues from entering the food or the waste stream.

[4. About how much wastewater do you anticipate producing, in gallons/year? If growth/plans are uncertain, what is the maximum volume you envision producing at the facility?](#)

We would estimate approximately 2000 gallons spread out over the months of June, July and August.

The items we envision possibly washing would be cucumbers and carrots, however we do not have a planned start for this.

[5. How do you plan to dispose of the wastewater?](#)

The wastewater will be piped into an existing pond, which is designated for reuse as irrigation for the surrounding crops—the same crops that may later be washed after harvest.

Thank you,

James Baisinger | Director of Special Projects

Azure Standard

Ph. 971-200-8351 Ext. 115 | C. 541-788-4773

From: "MAKEPEACE Carl, DEQ" <carl.makepeace@deq.oregon.gov>
To: "Paula Grendel" <Paulag@ncphd.org>, "James Baisinger" <james.baisinger@azurestandard.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:41:54 PM
Subject: RE: Waste water disposal for produce washing

Thank you Paula.

Hi James,

My name is Carl Makepeace, I'm a permitting and land application specialist with DEQ. I have some baseline questions for you on your proposed operation. These questions will help me determine next steps in the permitting process

1. What is the address of the facility?
2. Brief description of the process that will produce non-sanitary wastewater.
3. List any chemicals or cleaning products that are used in the wash area or could otherwise be introduced to the waste stream.
4. About how much wastewater do you anticipate producing, in gallons/year? If growth/plans are uncertain, what is the maximum volume you envision producing at the facility?
5. How do you plan to dispose of the wastewater?

Please let me know if you have any questions for me.



Carl Makepeace

Land Application, Permitting, & Compliance Specialist
DEQ Eastern Region - Water Quality Land Application
400 E Scenic Dr Ste 307, The Dalles, OR 97058
Cell: 971-300-5142
Pronouns: He/him/his

From: Paula Grendel <paulag@ncphd.org>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:00 PM
To: MAKEPEACE Carl * DEQ <carl.makepeace@deq.oregon.gov>; james.baisinger@azurestandard.com
Subject: Waste water disposal for produce washing

Hi Carl,

Thanks again for taking the time to talk today. I'm connecting you with James Baisinger, Director of Special Projects at Azure Standard.

We're currently working with James on an onsite septic system for restrooms and a breakroom at their storage center. In addition to this, the site will generate some wastewater from washing produce, which will not be discharged to the septic system.

Since this falls within your scope, I wanted to connect you both so you can provide guidance on next steps for managing and disposing of that wastewater.

I'll let you two take it from here—please feel free to reach out if I can help with anything further.

Thanks,

Paula

Paula Grendel, REHS
Environmental Health Program Manager

North Central Public Health District (NCPHD)

Phone: (541) 506-2603 | **Front Desk:** (541) 506-2600

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