

Green Valley Pecan
 Aquifer Protection Program Permit No. P-105999
 Place ID 14309, LTF No. 104946
 Facility Clean Closure and Permit Release

I. Introduction:

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) proposes to issue an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the subject facility that covers the life of the facility, including operational, closure, and post-closure periods unless suspended or revoked pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-A213. The requirements contained in this permit will allow the permittee to comply with the two key requirements of the Aquifer Protection Program: 1) meet Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) at the Point of Compliance (POC); and 2) demonstrate Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT). BADCT's purpose is to employ engineering controls, processes, operating methods or other alternatives, including site-specific characteristics (i.e., the local subsurface geology), to reduce discharge of pollutants to the greatest degree achievable before they reach the aquifer or to prevent pollutants from reaching the aquifer.

II. Permittee & Facility Location:

Permittee: Farmers Investment Co.
Facility Address: 2701 N. Noland Rd.
 San Simon, Arizona, 85632
County: Cochise County

III. Facility Description:

Green Valley Pecan in San Simon, Arizona was a red chili pepper dehydrating plant that operated seasonally from mid-September to early January. Operations consisted of washing, chopping, dehydrating, and packaging chili peppers. Adjacent to the dehydrating plant are 22 acres of cropland, within which is located the settling pond which is the subject of this permit. The settling pond was used for discharging the wastewater that is used in washing and processing the chili peppers. In addition to utilizing the Settling Pond as a discharging facility, the adjacent cropland was authorized to be used for reclaiming most of the wastewater. The reclaiming component of the process was addressed in a separate individual Industrial Reclaimed Water Permit (R-105999).

The facility transferred ownership from Biad Chili San Simon, LLC to Farmers Investment Co. in 2017. The permit transfer was processed in 2022. Recent information provided by new ownership indicated that the settling pond was no longer in use and had not been in use since the new ownership took over the property. The settling pond was regraded and closed as described in the 2023 Souder Miller and Associates (SMA) report submitted as part of the Clean Closure application.

The site included the following permitted discharging facilities:

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Latitude (North)</i>	<i>Longitude (West)</i>
Settling Pond ¹	32° 15' 13.45"N	109° 10' 49.83"W

¹ To be closed as part of this Clean Closure.

IV. Amendment Description:

The purpose of this amendment is to review the Clean Closure application for conformance with the definition of “Clean Closure” as described in ARS §49-201 (5).

The permit category for this amendment was determined to be a “Significant Amendment” as per A.A.C. R18-9-A211(B)(4).

V. Regulatory Status

There are currently no open enforcement actions.

VI. Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT):

There is no description of BADCT for this facility as the only existing discharging facility has been closed. There will be no discharge in the future upon closure and permit release.

VII. Compliance with Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS):

The facility has demonstrated compliance with Aquifer Water Quality Standards by submitting a 1D Hydrus model evaluating the possibility of Nitrate to leach to groundwater beneath the site.

The demonstration found that Nitrate detected during the site investigation will not practicably leach through the soil and reach groundwater at concentrations that exceed Aquifer Water Quality Standards. Therefore, no post-closure monitoring is required.

VIII. Clean Closure Determination

The facility has met the requirements for a Clean Closure:

1. The closure complies with all the terms of an existing individual Aquifer Protection Permit;
2. The closure eliminates all discharges from the facility to the greatest degree practical;
3. There is no reasonable probability that the facility will exceed Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) at the applicable point(s) of compliance due to a discharge; and
4. As closed, the facility does not require post-closure monitoring or maintenance.

The facility will be Clean Closed with no post-closure monitoring. There are no remaining discharging facilities on site that require an Individual Aquifer Protection Permit, therefore, the APP will be released following Clean Closure.