

# Alliance for Water Stewardship

## Audit Report - Nestle Waters North America, Inc. Mecosta, MI Water Bottling Facility

The AWS International Water Stewardship Standard, Version 1.0, April 8th, 2014

Report Issued on June 22, 2019



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### Introduction to the Alliance for Water Stewardship

The AWS Standard (“the Standard”) is intended to drive water stewardship, which is defined as the use of water that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial, achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves site- and catchment-based actions. Good water stewards understand their own water use, catchment context and shared concerns in terms of water governance, water balance, water quality and Important Water-Related Areas, and then engage in meaningful individual and collective actions that benefit people and nature. The Standard outlines a series of actions, criteria and indicators for how one should manage water at the site level and how water management should be stewarded beyond the boundaries of a site. In this Standard, the “site” refers to the implementing entity that is responsible for fulfilling the criteria. The site includes the facility and the property over which the implementer that is using or managing water (i.e., withdrawing, consuming, diverting, managing, treating and/or discharging water or effluent into the environment) has control.

### Assessment Information:

Client Name	Nestlé Waters North America, Inc. - Mecosta, MI
AWS Reference Number	AWS-010-INT-CAB-00-01-0004-0095
Stakeholder Notification	April 9, 2019 AWS Website, SCS Website, Pioneer Group, Big Rapids
Client AWS Representative/Group Manager (Role/Name/Contact info)	Brandon Kienenberger, G.I.T. NWWA, Sustainability Analyst
Audit Team (Role/Name)	Lead Auditor: Rae Mindock, SCS
	Team Auditor: Isabella Polenghi, Wood
	Team Auditor: Timothy Watley, SCS
Audit dates (DD-DD Month YYYY)	May 9/10 2019
Audit Location (main site being audited)	19275 8 Mile Rd Stanwood, MI 49346
Date(s) of previous audit (if applicable)	
Findings from previous year	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, see tab 9
SCS Certificate number (if applicable)	
Expiry date of previous certificate (if applicable)	

### Scope of Audit (check all applicable boxes)

The AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version V1.0 April 8th 2014	
Initial audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Surveillance audit	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
Re-certification audit	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
RE-evaluation audit	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
Single-site audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Multi-site audit	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, see tab 3
Group audit	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, see tab 3
<i>If yes, please description of the group structure and relationships</i>	

#### Description of Operations

The NWNA Mecosta plant is a water bottling facility, producing bottled water products under the brand names of Ice Mountain 100% Natural Spring Water and Nestlé Pure Life. The factory produces a variety of different bottle types ranging from 8 oz to 2.5 gallon from 10 bottling lines. Water for the bottling facility comes from three springs and two on-site wells. The water sources and discharges are within the catchment.

#### Description of the catchment in which the client operates:

The Mecosta plant is located in the Muskegon River Watershed. The catchment is located within the middle portion of the Muskegon River Watershed encompassing approximately 597,000 acres. The plant receives water from three different springs: White Pines Springs, Evert Springs and Sanctuary Springs. The springs are located within the catchment. There are three dams/ponds within the catchment including the Rodgers Dam Pond, Hardy Dam Pond, and the Croton Dam Pond.

#### Summary of shared water challenges:

Shared water challenges are catchment water related issues shared by the site and stakeholders. A prioritized list of shared water challenges addressing the outcomes was provided. The shared water challenge that was identified and had the highest priority was Public/Consumer Education. Other shared water challenges include water quality concerns (associated with wellhead protection) and water quantity.

## Audit Attendance

**Guidance:**

Record in this section the people attending the different parts of the audit. Tick the parts of the audit attended by each person.

**Audit Attendance**

*Mark attendance with an 'x' as appropriate*

Role/Title	Opening meeting	Document review	Facility Inspection	Closing meeting
Plant Manager	x	x	x	x
QA Manager	x	x	x	x
Natural Resource Manager	x	x		x
Sustainability Analyst	x	x	x	x

**Additional information on audit attendance**

## The AWS International Water Stewardship Standard, Version 1.0, April 8th, 2014

Surveillance audits shall cover at a minimum those requirements highlighted in light green

Core / Points	Requirement	Indicators	Conforms			Objective Evidence Reviewed / Finding	Allocated Points
			Yes	No	N/A		
<b>Step 1: COMMIT - Commit to being a responsible water steward</b>							
<b>Step 1 ensures that there is sufficient leadership support to enact the rest of the criteria within the Standard. This step also relates to commitments to legal/regulatory compliance and rights-related issues, which underpin water stewardship.</b>							
Core	1.1 Establish a leadership commitment on water stewardship: Have the senior-most manager at the site, and if necessary a suitable individual within the corporate head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uphold the AWS water stewardship outcomes (good water governance, sustainable water balance, good water quality status and healthy status of Important Water- Related Areas); <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engage stakeholders in an open and transparent manner;	1.1.1 Signed and publicly disclosed statement that explicitly covers all requirements (see details in Criterion 1.1).	Yes			A pledge was reviewed, signed by the site factory manager, containing all elements described in this criterion.	
Core	1.2 Develop a water stewardship policy: Develop an internally agreed-upon and communicated and publicly available water stewardship policy that references the concept of water stewardship (as informed by the AWS Standard, outcomes and criteria).	1.2.1 Publicly available policy that meets all requirements (see Guidance)	Yes			Nestlé's corporate water stewardship policy "Nestlé and Water: Sustainability, Protection, and Stewardship" extensively discusses Nestlé's commitment to sustainable water use. The policy is publicly available on the Nestlé website.	
3 per program (max. 9)	1.3 Further the alliance for Water Stewardship Commit to an AWS training programme or commit to AWS membership or get a commitment from one or more other sites to implement an AWS programme (membership, standard & certification or training).	1.3.1 Official registration with AWS	Yes			Nestlé is officially listed to be one of the AWS funding members within the private sector.	3
3	1.4 Commit to other initiatives that advance effective water stewardship Commit to additional, voluntary and complementary water-related initiatives. Qualifying initiatives must: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Be voluntary in nature; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Be commonly accepted as best practices or processes for effective water management; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explicitly contain references to water (even if this is not their primary purpose);	1.4.1 Formal commitment to qualifying initiative(s), including a timeline for completion	Yes			Nestlé made a commitment to certify all plants worldwide to ISO 14001 by 2010 prior to their AWS commitment.	0
1	1.5 Secure a water stewardship commitment from the organization's senior most executive or the organization's governance body The site's commitment in 1.1 is also signed off by the senior-most executive in the organization or the overarching governance body that oversees the site's organization.	1.5.1 Appropriately signed and publicly available statement that explicitly covers all requirements (see details in Criterion 1.1)	Yes			Nestlé signed the CEO Water Mandate and is listed as one of the two patron sponsors.	1
<b>Step 2: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND – Gather data to understand shared water challenges and water-related risks, impacts and opportunities</b>							
<b>Step 2 ensures that the site gathers data on its water use and its catchment context and that the site employs these data to understand its shared water challenges as well as its contributions (both negative and positive) to these challenges and to water-related risks,</b>							
Core	2.1 Define the physical scope Identify the site's operational boundaries, the sources the site draws its water from, the locations where the site returns its discharge to, and the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon.	2.1.1 Documentation or map of the site's boundaries	Yes			A map of the site was provided. The map includes the property boundaries of the factory, groundwater well and pipelines, and the wastewater discharge point. The map also shows the storm water retention basin adjacent and to the west of the facility.	
		2.1.2 Names and location of water sources, including both water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate source water	Yes			A map with the names and locations of water sources was provided. The Mecosta facility receives water from three springs (90%) and two plant wells (10%). The site does not use municipal water. The water sources include:  Sanctuary Springs (piped) White Pine Springs (trucked) Evert Springs (trucked) 2 Plant wells (used for purified bottling and plant operations)	

		2.1.3 Names and location of effluent discharge points, including both water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body	Yes			The effluent discharge points are directed to the on-site ponds or the Big Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant which is within the catchment. Storm water discharge is directed to an onsite storm water management area. Industrial discharges are treated on-site and discharged to an unnamed tributary of the Muskegon river. During waste water treatment plant maintenance, industrial discharges are sent to the Big Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant which discharges treated effluent to the Muskegon River.	
		2.1.4 Geographical description or map of the catchment(s)	Yes			A map of the site catchment was provided. The catchment area for the Mecosta facility is approximately 597,000 acres and is coincident with the Central Muskegon River Watershed. The catchment area contains the natural water springs used at this facility.	
Core	2.2 Identify stakeholders, their water- related challenges and the site's sphere of influence Identify stakeholders, document their water-related challenges and explain how the stakeholders are within the site's sphere of influence.	2.2.1 List of stakeholders, descriptions of prior engagements and summaries of their water-related challenges	Yes			The stakeholder map created during the Nestlé Community Relations Process (CRP) was reviewed. Stakeholders identified include Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Mecosta Township, City of Evart, Morton and Osceola Townships, Michigan Environmental, Great Lakes & Energy Department (EGLE; formerly MDEQ), school districts, community outreach programs and regional state representatives. The stakeholders interviewed were aware of Nestlé, including issues of water usage/operations in the area. NWNNA Mecosta has hosted factory tours, created stakeholder pamphlets, and engaged in volunteer activities within the community.	
		2.2.2 Description of the site's sphere of influence	Yes			A sphere of influence was provided and reviewed. Stakeholders are related to the site's catchment and identifies the stakeholders' ability to influence or be influenced.	
Core	2.3 Gather water-related data for the catchment Gather credible and temporally relevant data on the site's catchment: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water governance, including catchment plan(s), water- related public policies, major publicly led initiatives under way, relevant goals, and all water-related legal, regulatory requirements; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water balance for all sources while considering future supply and demand trends; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water quality for all sources while considering future physical, chemical and biological quality trends; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important Water-Related Areas, including their identification and current status, while considering future trends; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure's current status and exposure to extreme events while considering expected future needs	2.3.1 List of relevant aspects of catchment plan(s), significant publicly led initiatives and/or relevant water related public policy goals for the site	Yes			A list of Governance and Site Linkages was provided for the Mecosta site, including a list of specific issues, catchment plans, public policy goals, and site level opportunities. Appropriate time frame is provided, as applicable.	
		2.3.2 List, and description of relevance, of all applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements, including legally defined and customary water rights and water-use rights	Yes			A list of federal, state, local permits and regulatory requirements was provided, including permits issued by the EPA, the public health department, and EGLE. List of relevant and applicable legal and other requirements were also provided.	

		2.3.3 Catchment water balance by temporally relevant time unit and commentary on future supply and demand trends	Yes		A water balance for the the Mecosta Catchment area was provided, which includes the water inflow and outflow values based on monthly data for the Central Muskegon River Watershed available for the period between 2013 and 2018. The balance includes precipitation, surface water fluxes, groundwater recharge, runoff, ET, and Nwana usages. Seasonal averages and projections to 2050 are estimated based on the average historical data between 2013 and 2018. Site managers are also looking at climatologic models which predict more precipitation will occur in this area as a result of climate change.
		2.3.4 Appropriate and credibly measured data to represent the physical, chemical and biological status of the site's water source(s) by temporally relevant time unit, and commentary on any anticipated future changes in water quality	Yes		Water sources undergo the standard State required annual water quality testing performed by third party laboratories. In addition Nwana performs quarterly, monthly, and weekly water quality testing on additional constituents and parameters. Trending of water quality sources is evaluated annually and compared to historical data. Discussion on water quality sources was verbally provided to indicate that no changes are anticipated.
		2.3.5 Documentation identifying Important Water Related Areas, including a description of their current status and commentary on future trends	Yes		IWRAs have been identified by Nwana and described along with a description of their water related issues. IWRAs include the Springs, Muskegon River, Little Muskegon River, Rogers, Hardy and Croton Dams and associated Ponds.
		2.3.6 Existing, publicly available reports or plans that assess water- related infrastructure, preferably with content exploring current and projected sufficiency to meet the needs of water uses in the catchment, and exposure to extreme events	Yes		A list of publically available reports/data of water-related infrastructure with a description, exposure scenarios and opportunities. Infrastructure includes municipal wells and ponds/dams. Water needs of the catchment are realised through the abundant aquifer system and management of flows with dams.
Core	2.4 Gather water-related data for the site Gather credible and temporally relevant data on the site's: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governance (including water stewardship and incident response plan); <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water balance (volumetric balance of water inputs and outputs); <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water quality (physical, chemical and biological quality of influent and effluent) and possible sources of water pollution; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important Water-Related Areas (identification and status); <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water-related costs (including capital investment expenditures, water procurement, water treatment, outsourced water- related services, water- related R&D and water- related energy costs), revenues and shared value creation (including economic value distribution, environmental value and social value).	2.4.1 Copies of existing water stewardship and incident response plans	Yes		The Water Stewardship Plan, Spill Prevention Control Countermeasure Plan (SPCC), Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Pollution Incident Prevention Plan (PIPP) were reviewed. Incident response was addressed in the plans.

		2.4.2 Site water balance (in Mm3 or m3) by temporally relevant time unit and water-use intensity metric (Mm3orm3 per unit of production or service)	Yes			NWNA prepared and provided water maps containing inputs and outputs of water at this facility. Data showing monthly water inflows, outflows, and losses were reviewed. The site utilizes a Water Withdrawal Ratio (WWR) to evaluate efficiency, measuring Liters of water used to produce a Liter of product. As of 2018, Mecosta plant WWR is operating at an efficiency of 1.29 L/L.	
		2.4.3 Appropriate and credibly measured data to represent the physical, chemical and biological status of the site's direct and outsourced water effluent by temporally relevant time unit, and possible pollution sources (if noted)	Yes			Monthly or higher frequency data were provided for water quality of spring sources, plant wells, and effluent. NWNA water quality protocol includes pH, T, DO, TDS and other constituents. The records reviewed showed that no parameters exceeded any regulatory standards. The system is automated so that if a value is out of limits, the system shuts down. NWNA is notified and must respond if the effluent quality is out of required limits (e.g. if pH exceeds certain amount).	
		2.4.4 Inventory of all material water- related chemicals used or stored on- site that are possible causes of water pollution	Yes			A list of all onsite chemicals stored at the site was provided. Chemical storage was inspected during audit of the facility.	
		2.4.5 Documentation identifying existing, or historic, onsite Important Water-Related Areas, including a description of their status	Yes			No on-site IWRA's were identified.	
		2.4.6 List of annual water-related costs, revenues and description/quantification of social, environmental or economic value generated by the site to the catchment	Yes			<p>Finances are compiled and reviewed by NWNA corporate headquarters. Site level costs were presented, and social and environmental values were described. Normally revenue data is reviewed regionally or at the product level, not at the level of individual sites.</p> <p>NWNA Mecosta provided "Economic Contribution of NWNA to Michigan" prepared by Public Sector Consultants, dated 08/09/17 prior to the facility expansion in 2018. The report evaluated NWNA contribution to the economy at a statewide, regional and local level.</p> <p>AWS promotes continual improvement, and with deliberation, AWS 2019 Guidance associated with the Indicator was considered. The Guidance states that water-related revenues should be identified. The NWNA Mecosta Economic report provides Pre-Expansion and Post-Expansion Annual Contributions, Contributions due to Expansion and Capital Expenditures based on jobs, economic output and taxes.</p>	

Core	2.5 Improve the site's understanding of its indirect water use Identify and continually improve the site's understanding of: ☒ Its primary inputs, the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs and, where their origin can be identified, the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs; ☒ Water used in outsourced water-related services within the catchment.	2.5.1 List of primary inputs with their associated embedded annual (or better) water use and (where known) their country/region/catchment of origin with its level of water stress	Yes		A list of Mecosta site primary inputs with annual water consumption values, and origin for each input as well as outputs were reviewed. Analysis includes water use associated with packaging, transportation, cooling, end of life and level of water stress. A report of the study "Cubes 2016" prepared for the NWNA for the US and Canada market was reviewed. It contained a detailed footprint analysis of the water embedded in all the products used. This analysis showed that there is a clear decreasing trend in greenhouse effects, water consumption and non-renewable energy use from 2010 to 2015.	
		2.5.2 List of outsourced services that consume water or affect water quality and both (A) estimated annual (or better) water withdrawals listed by outsourced services (Mm3 or m3) and (B) appropriate and credibly measured data to represent the physical, chemical and biological status of the outsourced annual (or better) water effluent	Yes		Documentation provided shows values of water consumptions and availability. Calculations conducted indicate the Blue Water Scarcity Value and provides the score of the water stress.	
Core	2.6 Understand shared water-related challenges in the catchment Based upon the status of the catchment and stakeholder input, identify and prioritize the shared water-related challenges that affect the site and that affect the social, environmental and/or economic status of the catchment(s). In considering the challenges, the drivers of future trends and how these issues are currently being addressed by public-sector agencies must all be noted.	2.6.1 Prioritized and justified list of shared water challenges that also considers drivers and notes related to public-sector agency efforts	Yes		A prioritized list with rationale of shared water challenges was provided and reviewed. Drivers and public-sector agency efforts are noted as well. Public/Consumer Education is prioritized as first, on a scale of 1-4. NWNA Mecosta challenges were prioritized based on CRP 2.0 stakeholder feedback, and corporate initiatives.	
Core	2.7 Understand and prioritize the site's water risks and opportunities Based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues identified in 2.6, assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site.	2.7.1 Prioritized list of water risks facing the site, noting severity of impact and likelihood within a given time frame	Yes		A prioritized list of water risks was provided and reviewed. Water risks matched water challenges. Public/Consumer Education prioritized first, on a scale of 1-4.	
		2.7.2 Prioritized list of water-related opportunities for the site	Yes		A prioritized list of water-related opportunities for the site and match the water challenges and water risks lists. First priority is based on the Public/Consumer Education and focusing on transparency about operations.	
		2.7.3 Estimate of potential savings/value creation	Yes		A prioritized list of projects, savings and value creation submitted and reviewed. Value creation was quantified, as applicable.	
4	2.8 Support and undertake joint water-related data collection: Engage in data gathering with two or more other organizations in the catchment or join a public-sector effort to gather the information required in Criterion 2.3.	2.8.1 Evidence of water-related data that was jointly gathered	Yes		NWNA funded the installation of two United States Geological Survey (USGS) groundwater monitoring stations and two USGS surface water gauge stations, through EGLE. These stations provide publicly available real time data.	4
3	2.9 Gather additional, detailed water- related data: Gather additional data that goes beyond the core requirements with respect to the site or the catchment, or generate core data in highly data deficient environments, to further refine the site's understanding of its water stewardship context.	2.9.1 Water-related data sets that go beyond core requirements – See Guidance for details	Yes		NWNA Mecosta has prepared educational pamphlets providing information on Michigan groundwater, water withdrawals, the facility, environmental monitoring, recent results and future monitoring. The pamphlets were prepared for the Facility, Evert Springs, White Pines Springs and Sanctuary Springs.	3
7	2.11 Conduct a detailed, indirect water use evaluation: Complete an advanced evaluation of indirect water use related to the site's primary products/services (including outsourced, downstream services) that identifies the location of water use within the site's supply chain and clarifies the site's ability to influence the management of its suppliers' water use.	2.11.1 Detailed description of the site's water-related supply chain with indirect water use amounts (for water quantity and quality) and the site's engagement efforts to date for each	Yes		NWNA has provided the Cube Reports, prepared by rdc Environmental, 2016 which measures sustainability as assessed by GHG, water consumption, non-renewable energy including on-site impacts and supply chain.	5

10	2.12 Understand groundwater status or environmental flows and the site's potential contributions: Gather data on either groundwater status or environmental flows and identify the site's potential contribution. In all cases, coordination with relevant government agencies is required.	2.12.1 Conclusions about the site's potential contributions to groundwater recharge or environmental flows restoration	Yes			A technical memo and monitoring report summaries commissioned by NWNA were reviewed, which provide detailed evaluations of the surface water and groundwater conditions in the vicinity of wells and springs operated by the site. Based on these reports: the flow data collected are overseen by independent scientists and shared with public agencies and stakeholders; the site manages their sources sustainably through proactive monitoring and responsible use; NWNA water withdrawals in this area have not resulted in adverse effects to groundwater, surface water, wetlands, and other natural resources. Climate models suggest that precipitation in the Great Lakes region is increasing, a trend that has been observed in nearby National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) stations. Therefore, NWNA groundwater pumping may positively contribute to create aquifer storage and promote natural groundwater replenishment by the predicted increased precipitation.	10
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**Step 3: PLAN – Develop a water stewardship plan**

*Step 3 focuses on how a site will improve its performance and the status of its catchment in terms of the AWS water stewardship outcomes. Step 3 needs to explicitly link the information gathered in Step 2 to the performance noted in Step 4 by describing who will be doing what and when. The monitoring methods in Step 5 should also reflect the plan.*

Core	3.1 Develop a system that promotes and evaluates water-related legal compliance: Develop, or refer to, a system that promotes and periodically evaluates compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements identified in Criterion 2.3.	3.1.1 Documented description of system, including the processes to evaluate compliance and the names of those responsible and accountable for legal compliance	Yes			The NWNA Mecosta Compliance Matrix was provided and reviewed. Included in the matrix are the listed permits and responsible staff to ensure maintenance of compliance.	
Core	3.2 Create a site water stewardship strategy and plan: Develop an internally available water stewardship strategy and plan for the site that addresses its shared water challenges, risks and opportunities identified in Step 2 and that contains the following components (see Guidance for plan template): A strategy that considers the shared water challenges within the catchment, water risks for the site (noting in particular where these are connected to existing public-sector agency catchment goals) and the site's general response (from Criteria 2.6 and 2.7) A plan that contains: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A list of targets (based upon Criterion 2.7) to be achieved, including how these will be measured and monitored. Note: where identified as a shared water challenge, these targets must be continually	3.2.1 Available water stewardship strategy	Yes			A water stewardship strategy statement was provided and reviewed. NWNA Mecosta strategy is a high level document stating the overall strategy is in alignment with the AWS requirements.	
		3.2.2 Available plan that meets all component requirements and addresses site risks, opportunities and stakeholder shared water challenges	Yes			A detailed water stewardship plan was created as part of the AWS process. The plan is broken into objectives, targets, and actions. There are different actions corresponding to different targets, each with their own metrics, budget, responsible person, status, and other criteria. Public Consumer/Education, Water Efficiency, Water Quality, and Water Quantity are the water topics identified in this plan.	
Core	3.3 Demonstrate responsiveness and resilience to water-related risks into the site's incident response plan: Add to or modify the site's incident response plan to be both responsive and resilient to the water-related risks facing the site.	3.3.1 A description of the site's efforts to be responsive and resilient to water-related issues and/or risks in an appropriate plan	Yes			NWNA Mecosta provided their current SWPPP/PIPP and SPCC documents which included a description of their required responses and resilience operations to water related issues and risks. Modifications to the plans are captured through revision/amendment comments; additionally, an annual review is part of standard procedures to evaluate the plan's effectiveness.	
Core	3.4 Notify the relevant (catchment) authority of the site's water stewardship plans: Contact the appropriate catchment authority/agency (if any) and inform them of the site's plans to contribute to the water stewardship objectives of their catchment plan as identified in Criterion 2.3.	3.4.1 Documented evidence of communicating the site's plan to the relevant catchment authority/agency	Yes			NWNA Mecosta provided the outreach log and communication with catchment authorities about the AWS process. Communication and outreach confirmed through stakeholder interviews.	

**Step 4: IMPLEMENT – Implement the site's stewardship plan and improve impacts**

*Step 4 is intended to ensure that the site is executing the plan outlined in Step 3, mitigating risks and driving actual improvements in performance.*

Core	4.1 Comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights: Meet all applicable legal and regulatory requirements related to water balance, water management and Important Water-Related Areas as well as water-related rights. As noted in Criteria 1.1 and 3.2, where, through its water use, the site is contributing to an inability to meet the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the site must also continually work with relevant public sector agencies until this basic human right to water and sanitation is fulfilled.	4.1.1 Documentation demonstrating compliance	Yes		NWNA Mecosta compliance matrix and environmental audit report were provided and met the indicator criteria.
		4.1.2 (Catchments with stakeholders who have an unmet human right to safe drinking water and sanitation) Documentation of efforts to work with relevant public sector agencies to fulfil human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.	Yes		No unmet human rights needs identified within this catchment.
Core	4.2 Maintain or improve site water balance: Meet the site's water balance targets. As noted in Criterion 3.2., where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, the site must also continually decrease its water withdrawals until best practices are met and work with relevant public sector agencies to address the imbalance and shared water challenge. Note: if a site wishes to increase its water use in a water scarce context, the site must cause no overall increase in water scarcity in the catchment and depletion of the site's water source(s) and encourage relevant public sector agencies to address the unlawful water use contributing to the imbalance in the catchment.	4.2.1 Measurement-based evidence showing that targets have been met	Yes		The site has improved its water efficiency as per its targets, by implementing the following measures: improvement of clean in place procedures; water reuse in cooling towers, and improved RO recovery. Current WWR of 1.29 versus target of 1.30 for year 2018.
		4.2.2 (Water scarce catchments only) Evidence of continual decrease or best practice	Yes		The Site is not within a water scarce catchment.
		4.2.3 (Sites wishing to increase withdrawals in water scarce catchments only) Evidence of no net increase in water scarcity	Yes		The Site is not within a water scarce catchment.
Core	4.3 Maintain or improve site water quality: Meet the site's water quality targets. As noted in Criterion 3.2., where water quality stress is a shared water challenge, the site must also continually improve its effluent for the parameters of concern until best practices are met and work with relevant public sector agencies to address the imbalance and shared water challenge. Note: if a site wishes to increase its water use in a water stressed context, the site must cause no overall increase in the degradation of water quality in the catchment and degradation of the site's water source(s) and encourage relevant public sector agencies to address the unlawful water use contributing to the degradation in the catchment.	4.3.1 Measurement-based evidence showing that targets have been met	Yes		Measurement system is in place for water quality targets throughout the site, data from previous monitoring reports were reviewed. Annual review of data was found to be within historic values and regulatory limits. Water monitoring protocol was discussed with quality assurance manager. Wastewater results are within permitted values.
		4.3.2 (Water quality-stressed catchments only) Evidence of continual improvement or best practice	Yes		Stressed water quality is not identified within this catchment.
		4.3.3 (Sites wishing to increase effluent levels of water quality parameters of concern in water quality-stressed catchments only) Evidence of no net degradation in water quality in the catchment	Yes		Stressed water quality is not identified within this catchment.
Core	4.4 Maintain or improve the status of the site's Important Water-Related Areas: Meet the site's targets for Important Water-Related Areas at the site. As noted in Criterion 3.2., where Important Water-Related Area degradation is a shared water challenge, the site must also continually improve its Important Water-Related efforts until best practices are met, and the site must not knowingly cause any further degradation of such areas on site.	4.4.1 Documented evidence showing that targets have been met	Yes		No IWRAs are present at the Mecosta site. Catchment IWRAs have been identified together with their current status, future trends and site status. IWRAs are discussed in their AWS presentations to stakeholders. NWNA Mecosta has a long established history of participating in clean-up efforts of the Muskegon River. Additionally, the Ice Mountain Environmental Stewardship Fund (MESF) is dedicated to improving the health of the Muskegon River Watershed. Progress towards implementation of IWRA plans are identified and documented.
		4.4.2 (Degraded Important Water- Related Area catchments only) Evidence of continual improvement or best practice	Yes		Degraded IWRAs are not identified within this catchment.

Core	4.5 Participate positively in catchment governance: Continually coordinate and cooperate with any relevant catchment management authorities' efforts. As noted in Criterion 3.2, where water governance is a shared water challenge, the site must also continually improve its efforts until best practices are met.	4.5.1 Documented evidence of the site's ongoing efforts to contribute to good catchment governance	Yes			NWNA Mecosta provided documentation of their efforts to support good catchment governance through participation with the local governing agencies, sharing information with Monitoring Reports and through establishment of the IMESF.	
		4.5.2 (Weak water governance catchments only) Evidence of continual improvement or best practice	Yes			Weak water governance is not identified in the catchment.	
Core	4.6 Maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment: Contact the site's primary product suppliers and water-related service providers located in the catchment and request that they take actions to help contribute to the desired water stewardship outcomes.	4.6.1 List of suppliers and service providers, along with the actions they have taken as a result of the site's engagement relating to indirect water use	Yes			A list of Primary Input Providers and Outsourced Services was prepared. Water usage data have been compiled for the majority of the Primary Input Providers and the top Outsourced Services.	
Core	4.7 Provide access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness (WASH) for workers on- site: Ensure appropriate access to safe water, effective sanitation and protective hygiene for all workers in all premises under the site's control.	4.7.1 List of actions taken to provide workers access to safe water, effective sanitation and protective hygiene (WASH) on-site	Yes			NWNA uses a self-assessment tool at each site to review access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene awareness (WASH). The nature of the product made at the facility requires strict adherence to these principals. Pledged compliance was achieved within the Mecosta facility.	
Core	4.8 Notify the owners of shared water- related infrastructure of any concerns: Contact the owners of shared water- related infrastructure and actively highlight any concerns the site may have in light of its risks and shared water challenges.	4.8.1 List of individuals contacted and key messages relayed	Yes			Evidence indicated there are no concerns with any shared water related infrastructure. NWNA regularly shares aquifer and surface water information from Evert Springs, White Pine Springs, and Sanctuary Springs with stakeholders.	
8 or 14	4.15 Engage in collective action to address shared water challenges: Work with other interested entities in the catchment to advance or improve water stewardship outcomes. For the additional recognition (6 points), quantifiably improve the shared water challenge and be recognized by stakeholders as having played a material role in the improvement.	4.15.1 List of collective action efforts, including a description of the role played by the site 4.15.2 Quantified improvement in outcome(s) or shared water challenge(s) from site-set baseline date 4.15.3 (For extra points only) Stakeholder-based evidence recognizing that the site played a material role in the improvement	Yes			NWNA detected perchlorate in groundwater aquifer for the City of Evert wellfield. NWNA determined the source, funded new well installation, testing, and paid consultant fees. The results of this work is now presented at conferences by the consultants in MI and AIPG in Colorado (state and national level). Outcome is quantified and provided graphically depicting a decrease in perchlorate concentration. The stakeholder interview with Evert recognized the problem would not have been identified or resolved with NWNA involvement.	14
3	4.17 Complete implementation of water-related initiatives: Complete implementation of one or more of the initiatives committed to in 1.4.	4.17.1 Appropriate documentation or evidence of completion of initiative	Yes			Nestle committed to certifying their sites to ISO 14001, NWNA Mecosta received the ISO Certification.	3
5	4.18 Provide access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness offsite: In coordination with relevant public authorities, directly assist in the provision of appropriate access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness for individuals off-site within the catchment.	4.18.1 List of actions taken to provide catchment stakeholders with access to off-site access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness.	Yes			NWNA Mecosta provides drinking water donations to organizations within the catchment upon request by various organizations. Additionally, NWNA recently funded and supported installation of a WASH-related well at a local park.	4
<b>Step 5: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance</b>							
<i>Step 5 is intended to review performance against the actions taken in Step 4, learn from the outcomes – both intended and unintended – and inform the next iteration of the site's water stewardship plan. The expectation is that such an evaluation takes place at least</i>							
Core	5.1 Evaluate the site's water stewardship performance, risks and benefits in the catchment context: Periodically review the site's performance in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan to evaluate: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General performance in terms of the water stewardship outcomes (considering context and water risks), positive contributions to the catchment, and water-related costs and benefits to the site.	5.1.1 Post-implementation data and narrative discussion of performance and context (including water risk)	Yes			NWNA Mecosta provided a Shared Value Creation Matrix demonstrating performance related to water risk. Targets dates provided data of successes and cost/benefit related to water risk. Further evaluation will be conducted during the surveillance and renewal years.	
		5.1.2 Total amount of water-related costs, cost savings and value creation for the site based upon the actions outlined in 3.2 (drawn from data gathered in 2.4.6)	Yes			Refer to 5.1.1.	
		5.1.3 Updated data for indicator 2.4.7 on catchment shared value creation based upon the actions outlined in 3.2	Yes			Refer to 5.1.1.	

Core	5.2 Evaluate water-related emergency incidents and extreme events: Evaluate impacts of water-related emergency incidents (including extreme events), if any occurred, and determine effectiveness of corrective and preventive measures. Factor lessons learned into updated plan.	5.2.1 Documented evidence (e.g., annual review and proposed measures)	Yes		No water related emergency events occurred. No shutdown occurred that was water related. The annual environmental reviews document these emergency events, if any. The facility has a current Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
Core	5.3 Consult stakeholders on water- related performance: Request input from the site's stakeholders on the site's water stewardship performance and factor the feedback/lessons learned into the updated plan.	5.3.1 Commentary by the identified stakeholders	Yes		Internal and external stakeholder outreach conducted through the CRP 2.0. Responses covered the main topics of Water Resource Management, Relations with Stakeholders, Industrial Impacts and Local Contribution. Internal and external stakeholders noted Public/Consumer Education as the highest priority. Water Quality was also indicated as a potential concern related to well head protection. <b>OBS 2019-001 was issued.</b> Acknowledging the AWS stakeholder outreach effort complemented a decade of extensive shareholder engagement at the Site, NWNA should continue to educate stakeholders on AWS ideals to support meaningful stakeholder engagement.
Core	5.4 Update water stewardship and incident response plans: Incorporate the information obtained into the next iteration of the site's water stewardship plan. Note: updating does not apply for initial round of Standard implementation.	5.4.1 Modifications to water stewardship and incident response plans incorporating relevant information		NA	This is the initial assessment, therefore this indicator does not apply for this initial round of standard implementation.
<b>Step 6: COMMUNICATE &amp; DISCLOSE – Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts</b>					
<i>Step 6 is intended to encourage transparency and accountability through communication of performance relative to commitments, policies and plans. Disclosure allows others to make informed decisions on a site's operations and tailor their involvement to suit.</i>					
Core	6.1 Disclose water-related internal governance: Publicly disclose the general governance structure of the site's management, including the names of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related laws and regulations.	6.1.1 Disclosed and publicly available summary of governance at the site, including those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations	Yes		NWNA Mecosta facility posts the factory organization chart in the entry of the factory floor where it will be observed the most by staff and during factory open houses with operational tours. The organization chart includes the staff and relevant responsible personnel for water-related laws and regulations. Factory open houses also include presentations on the site's water stewardship projects and implementation of the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard.
Core	6.2 Disclose annual site water stewardship performance: Disclose the relevant information about the site's annual water stewardship performance, including results against the site's targets.	6.2.1 Disclosed summary of site's water stewardship results	Yes		The stakeholder presentation was reviewed, the presentation includes the site's water stewardship performance results. NWNA Mecosta conducted public/consumer education outreach through factory tours; distribution of stakeholder presentations, programming to local school districts; and providing attendees presentations that reviewed the sites water challenges, stakeholder feedback, targets, with implementation outcomes.
Core	6.3 Disclose efforts to address shared water challenges: Publicly disclose the site's shared water challenges and report on the site's efforts to help address these challenges, including all efforts to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies.	6.3.1 Disclosed and publicly available description of shared challenges and summary of actions taken to engage stakeholders (including public-sector agencies)	Yes		The stakeholder presentation was reviewed. Presentation includes the site's water stewardship performance results. The presentation was provided to attendees prior to the onsite audit. List of attendees reviewed at the facility. NWNA Mecosta conducted public/consumer education outreach through factory tours; preparation and distribution of Monitoring Summary Reports, environmental education programming to local school districts; and providing attendee lists of presentations that reviewed the sites water challenges, stakeholder feedback, targets, with implementation outcomes.

Core	6.4 Drive transparency in water-related compliance: Make any site water-related compliance violations available upon request as well as any corrective actions the site has taken to prevent future occurrences. Note: any site-based violation that can pose an immediate material threat to human or ecosystem health from use of or exposure to site-related water must be reported immediately to relevant public agencies.	6.4.1 Available list of water-related compliance violations with corresponding corrective actions	Yes		Violations are publicly available through state reporting. There were no violations reported at the facility.	
Core	6.5 Increase awareness of water issues within the site: Strive to raise the understanding of the importance of water issues at the site through active communications.	6.5.1 Record of awareness efforts (dates and communication) and, if possible, level of awareness	Yes		Signed sheets for the 2019 Factory Tour, Plantwide Training and World Water Day were provided. NWNNA have discussed AWS with their managers during regular conference calls.	
4	6.7 Implement a programme for water education: Implement a water education programme within the catchment to raise awareness and understanding of water stewardship issues and practices.	6.7.1 Description of water-related education programme	Yes		NWNNA Mecosta supports several Project WET events including a Community Water Festival. Ice Mountain was a sponsor for the Water Ways, A Smithsonian Exhibit in Big Rapids. NWNNA and consultants also shared the results of the Evert Perchlorate Case Study at US Conferences.	4

## Audit Non-conformities and Observations

**Guidance**

Disclaimer: auditing is based on a sampling process of the available information and therefore nonconformities may exist which have not been identified.

Observations are defined as an area of concern regarding a process, document, or activity where there is opportunity for improvement.

Major non-conformity is raised if the issue represents a systematic problem of substantial consequence; the issue is a known and recurring AWS Standard; or the nature of the problem may jeopardize the credibility of AWS.

**Applicants** must close\* major NCR within Ninety (90) days of the NCR issue date. Failure to meet this deadline will require another conformity assessment.

**Certificate Holders** must close\* major NCR within Thirty (30) days of the NCR issue date. If the Major NCR is not addressed within 30 days of the issue date, a conformity assessment has been successfully completed.

Minor non-conformity: Where the audit team has evaluated an audit finding and determines that the seriousness of the issue does not constitute a non-conformity.

**Applicants** must submit an acceptable corrective action plan^ to address all minor non-conformities to be recommended for certification.

**Certificate Holders** must close minor NCR within Ninety (90) days of the NCR issue date. SCS may agree to an alternative time frame with the applicant. If corrective actions are inadequate to resolve a minor non-conformity by the time of the next scheduled audit, SCS shall upgrade the finding to a major non-conformity. If an unusually large number of minor non-conformities are detected during the course of a single audit, the audit team may at their discretion upgrade the finding to deliver conformity with the AWS Standard.

\* closed = actioned by the client, corrections & corrective actions verified and closed by the auditor.

^The corrective action plan shall include an analysis of the root cause of the minor non-conformity; the specific corrective action(s) to address the non-conformity.

NC #	Criteria / Indicator #	Major – Detail on Non Conformance	Due Date (XX calendar Days)

NC #	Section #	Minor – Detail on Non Conformance	Due Date (XX calendar Days)

OBS #	Section #	Observation – Detail on Opportunity for Improvement	Due Date
OBS 2019-001	5.3.1	Acknowledging the AWS stakeholder outreach effort complemented a decade of extensive shareholder engagement at the Site, NWNA should continue to educate stakeholders on AWS water stewardship ideals to support meaningful stakeholder engagement.	Not Required

not been identified.

ring problem that the client has failed to resolve; the issue fundamentally undermines the intent of the  
formity assessment.

ys SCS shall suspend or withdraw the certificate and reinstatement shall not occur before another

meet the any of the criteria for Major non-compliance the audit team shall grade the finding as a minor  
on.

th the client as long as this can be justified and is documented in the NCR report.

udit finding to a major non- conformity.

cretion raise a major non-conformity to reflect a systematic failure of the client's management system

*Address the minor non-conformity; and an appropriate time frame to implement corrective action(s).*

**Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action Taken**


**Corrective Action Taken**


**Corrective Action Taken**


## Certification Decision

Guidance
<p>The recommendation section to be filled out by the auditor with optional comments.</p> <p>The Certification Decision section is to be completed by the SCS's decision-making entity after initial, re-certification and re-evaluation audits.</p> <p>Details of the decision making entity and any observations or further details can be included in the comments field.</p>

<b>Auditor's recommendation for initial, continued or re-certification based on compliance with requirements:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initial/Continued Certification <b>Recommended</b>
		Initial/Continued Certification <b>Not Recommended</b>
<b>Level of certification recommended (if applicable):</b>		AWS Core
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AWS Gold
		AWS Platinum
<b>Comments (e.g. justification for change in certification level, recommendations for sampling):</b>		

<b>To be completed by the SCS Decision-Making Entity</b>	<b>SCS Certification Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Approved</b>
			<b>Denied</b>
	<b>Certification decision by:</b>	 <b>Nicole Munoz, Managing Director</b>	
	<b>Technical Review by:</b>	<b>Nicole Munoz, Managing Director</b>	
	<b>Date of decision:</b>	11 July 2019	
	<b>Surveillance schedule:</b>	<b>Next audit is scheduled for (include range) : May 2020 to June 2020 (1 Year)</b>	