**The Alabama Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management manages the NPDES surface water discharge program. Alabama does not have specific total nitrogen or nitrate nitrogen on any municipal (POTW) surface water discharges.

Alabama has twenty poultry processing plants that have individual permits with surface water discharges or discharge into a municipal POTW. The poultry processing plant with individual surface discharge permits have a 103 mg/l total nitrogen monthly average and 147 mg/l maximum month total nitrogen limit. The limit of 103 mg/l is a federal US EPA technology based limit for poultry processing facilities were individual site specific limits are not issued. Poultry processing facilities that discharge to a POTW have local discharge limits that vary.

Most of the poultry processing facilities do not require a supplemental carbon source to achieve the federal limit for total nitrogen due to the high total nitrogen concentration based limit or high local limits from the POTW. For the few facilities that use a supplemental carbon source glycerin typically is used and it is generally used intermittently.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has listed two rivers the Tennessee and Tombiggee River as nutrient impaired. The TMDLs for the aforementioned rivers have not been developed and is not scheduled to be completed for several years. It is not likely that low level nitrogen limits will be required for greater than five years.