**The Georgia Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources manages the NPDES surface water discharge program. Georgia presently does not have total nitrogen limits on any major NPDES dischargers.

The only dischargers with nitrogen limits are for poultry processing facilities. There is a total of 16 poultry processing facilities in Georgia and one large rendering plant. For the poultry dischargers that discharge directly into a waterway have the federal EPA technology based limit of 103 mg/l total nitrogen monthly average and 147 mg/l total nitrogen maximum month.

Poultry processing facilities that discharge into a municipal POTW have local limits that vary in the amount of nitrogen discharged. Of the treatment plants requiring the use of supplemental carbon only the large rendering plant, American Protein’s uses approximately 4,500 gallons per week of 70% glycerin.

Georgia is the planning stage for potential total nitrogen limits in the Savannah River basin. At present the TMDL is the development stage and includes monitoring only for the nitrogen series at 20 wastewater treatment plants in the Savannah River basin. The likely schedule for actual completed wastewater improvements with nitrogen limits is greater than five years.