**The Illinois Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency the NPDES surface water discharge program.

Based on communication with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency permitting and water quality planning staff there is one municipal or publicly owned (POTW) NPDES major dischargers, (over one million gallon per day average flow) that has a total nitrogen limit of 10 mg/l at this time. Future planning will include evaluation for nitrogen limits for the for all point source dischargers in to the Mississippi River. This is part of the Gulf of Mexico/Mississippi River nutrient reduction initiative. Voluntary monitoring has been in place a NPDES major dischargers in order to establish a database of nitrogen discharged from point souces.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency completed on December 1, 2014, “The Illinois Nutrient Reduction Strategy” that provides for an overall reduction of total nitrogen of 45% discharging into the Mississippi River basin. The strategy outlines a 10 mg/l total nitrogen limit for stream segments and lakes designated as public water supplies. According to the 2014 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report 303(d) list there are 76 stream and river mile segments and five lakes that are nitrogen impaired.

There are three dischargers with nitrogen limits that are poultry and meat processing facilities. The poultry and meat dischargers with an NPDES permit discharging directly into a waterway have the federal EPA technology based limit of 134 mg/l total nitrogen monthly average and 194 mg/l total nitrogen maximum month. Of the three facilities two are using supplemental carbon to achieve permit compliance at a Tyson Foods processing plant and JBS foods processing plant use glycerin.